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Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Thomas Chalmers, D.D., L.L.D. By his Son-in-Law, the Rev. William Hanna, L.L.D. Vol. I. Edinburgh, Sutherland & Knox; London, Hamilton & Adams.

So often as the British orators of the first half of our nineteenth century are enumerated, in the foremost rank, by the side of—perhaps before—Robert Hall will be placed Dr. Chalmers. The brilliancy of his eloquence, the passion and poetry with which he could invest facts of exact science, or theological controversies for the establishment of a favourite dogma, or philanthropic arguments on questions of social morals,—his genius, in short, will not make the world oblivious of the energetic virtue to which these things ministered; but it brings him out in glowing relief from among the company of arid theologians and zealous wranglers and benevolent agitators to whom, in spite of their faults and their follies, Society owes so much. The name of Chalmers belongs to no party so much as it does to mankind.—It was hardly to be expected that Dr. Hanna, holding his peculiar views, should have recognized this so as to lay before the public such a portraiture as we desire to receive of those whom we love and reverence. Were no religious scruples in the way, moreover, there is a nice art in the selection and arrangement of biographical detail, which very few know how to practise—since some of the best qualities of Novelist and of Dramatist must therein be tempered by a judicial severity of judgment and a philosophical sobriety of taste. Owing to the absence of this art, the life of Channing was “dry as a remainder biscuit,” while the autobiographical confessions of Southey “trickled over” with washy and puerile reminiscences. This premised, let us say that, according to its author’s conscience, the book before us is carefully and fairly executed, and that it will naturally supersede all other memoirs issuing from a source less authentic.

The family of Dr. Chalmers can be traced back for several generations, as one of some worship in Fifehire. His great-grandfather, son of the Laird of Pitmedden, and his grandfather had successively served “the kirk” in the parish of Elie. The second son of the latter was a dyer, ship-owner and general merchant at Anstruther, and his sixth child and fourth son was Thomas Chalmers, who was born on the 17th of March, 1780. The child’s infancy was not free from those oppressions which we are inclined to believe too often passed unnoticed by the wisdom of our ancestors, celebrated though the latter be for superiority in the article of family discipline. The usage of a cruel and deceitful nurse drove Thomas, when he was three years old, by way of refuge, to school:—but one cruelty was only to be exchanged for another. The master, Mr. Bryce, under whom he was placed—a blind tyrant—had the habit of punishing his scholars with a malicious and furtive ingenuity which might furnish a hint to the torment-mongers of fiction wanting a new device. At first, however, Thomas, as a younger child, was under the care of an usher, one Daniel Ramsay. This man, though easy and inefficient, can have entertained no mean notion of his own capacity, for we are told that—

“Some years ago when the whole powers of the empire lodged for a short time in the single hand of the Duke of Wellington, he wrote to his Grace in the true dominie spirit, but with almost as much wisdom as wit—that he could tell him how to do the

most difficult thing he had in hand, namely, to cure the ills of Ireland; he should just take, he told him, ‘the taws in tae hand, and the Testament in the tither.’ Engrossed as he was, the Duke sent an acknowledgment signed by himself, and for some time it was difficult to say which of the two Daniel Ramsay was proudest of—having taught Dr. Chalmers, and so laid, as he was always accustomed to boast, the foundation of his fame—or having instructed the Duke of Wellington as to the best way of governing Ireland, and having got an answer from the Duke himself.”

Chalmers is commemorated as having in these early days been “joyous, vigorous and humorous”—ripe for fun and frolic—averse “to powder and ball,” but given to “defend the weak and the injured.” Even during this dawn of his life we get glimpses of his imagination and of his eloquence in the following traits.—

“Among the books earliest read, the two which took the strongest hold upon his thoughts, filling and swelling out his childish imagination, were Gaudentia di Luca and The Pilgrim’s Progress. ‘I feel quite sure that the use of the sacred dialogues as a school book, and the pictures of Scripture scenes which interested my boyhood, still cleave to me, and impart a peculiar tinge and charm to the same representations when brought within my notice.’ He was but three years old, when one evening, after it had grown dark, missed and sought for, he was found alone in the nursery, pacing up and down, excited and absorbed, repeating to himself as he walked to and fro the words of David—‘O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!’ Almost as soon as he could form or announce a purpose, he declared that he would be a minister. The sister of one of his school-fellows at Anstruther still remembers breaking in upon her brother and him, in a room to which they had retired together, and finding the future great pulpit orator (then a very little boy, standing upon a chair and preaching most vigorously to his single auditor) below. He had not only resolved to be a minister—he had fixed upon his first text—‘Let brotherly love continue.’”

It may be remembered that a like resolution to preach manifested itself in Dr. Channing [*Ath.* No. 1081] at a tender age. There is in this at once a quick thirst for sympathy and a passion for immediate power which do not animate those who are to serve mankind in the closet rather than in the crowd.

When Thomas Chalmers was only twelve years old he entered the United College of St. Andrew’s. At that time he must have been a backward lad, since he was unable to write or to spell his own language correctly. But two years later the mind awoke; bending itself to mathematical study with that undivided and energetic enthusiasm which surely leads its possessor to distinction. About that period also (as our biographer would describe it), Chalmers passed through his “lunes” of liberalism in politics and also in theology,—believed too warmly in Godwin’s ‘Political Justice’ and ascribed too final a sufficiency to natural science. When, in 1795, “he was inrolled as a student of divinity,” it was with a certain indifference to the interpretations of synods and councils, —which never wholly faded away, however repudiated by the more mature theologian.—

“I remember,” says he, writing in 1821, “when a student of Divinity, and long ere I could relish evangelical sentiment, I spent nearly a twelvemonth in a sort of mental elysium, and the one idea which ministered to my soul all its rapture was the magnificence of the Godhead, and the universal subordination of all things to the one great purpose for which He evolved and was supporting creation. * * Alluding to this singular period in his mental history, he has told a member of his family that not a single hour elapsed in which the overpoweringly impressive imagination did not stand out bright before the inward eye; and that his custom was to wander early in the morning into the country, that, amid the quiet scenes

of nature, he might luxuriate in the glorious conception.”

Chalmers, however, was no dreamer. We are assured that a fragment of a journal narrating the events of a visit by him paid to Liverpool in 1796 is full of such shrewd remarks and precise statements of details as those “commerce with the skies” are apt arrogantly to disclaim asgrovelling and material,—“of the earth, earthy.” So far as this biography enables us to follow Chalmers’s career, we find one set of faculties and emotions perpetually balancing and tempering another:—thus once again proving that in really great men there is nothing superfluous or standing alone. When Chalmers began to compose in English his exercises, instead of showing any *plethora* of fine language, were simple and plain,—obviously exhibiting marks of self-discipline. He walked steadily in order that he might one day run the more fleetly. In 1798 he left home to enter as private tutor in a family.—

“The day of his departure,” says Dr. Hanna, “was one of mixed emotion. Having previously despatched his luggage, he was to travel on horseback to the ferry at Dundee. The whole family turned out to bid him farewell. Having taken as he thought his last tender look of them all, he turned to mount the horse which stood waiting for him at the door, but he mounted so that, when fairly on its back, his head was turned, not to the horse’s head, but to the horse’s tail. This was too much for all parties, and especially for him; so wheeling round as quickly as he could, amid pursuing peals of laughter, which he most heartily re-echoed, he left Anstruther in the rear.”

In spite, however, of this outset in life, which recalls ‘The Vicar of Wakefield’ and ‘Guy Mannering,’—the events of this tutorage proved how little of *Primrose* or of *Sampson* super-simplicity existed in Chalmers. This may be seen by his home-letters of the period: in the first of which he begs Dr. Brown to “excuse any violent expressions.”—

“Dear Sir,—I have deferred writing to you to this time that I might be able to give you a just account of the nature of my situation. It is by no means the most eligible. The people of the house don’t seem to know the place in which a tutor should stand: hence a cold, distant, contemptuous reserve, which I was never accustomed to, and which exposes me to the most disagreeable feelings. The vexation of mind that arises from this circumstance is much heightened by the difficulties of my employment. The oldest boy, about fifteen, who has been two years at College, seems to have no idea of any respect being due to my office; his behaviour not only made his own management a matter of difficulty, but had also a tendency to weaken my authority over my other pupils. My predecessor, as I have reason to believe, in compliance with the wishes of the female part of the family, allowed his pupils several improper indulgences: hence they had contracted habits quite incompatible with the order and discipline which ought to be observed, and I was obliged to have recourse to strong measures in order to root them out. These gave offence, I thought, to the ladies of the house, (Mrs. —, and her mother), and I ascribed to this in great part their high looks and sour forbidding deportment. I have been a stranger to real enjoyment ever since I came here. I place my happiness in the reciprocal returns of friendship and good-will, but this is to me a solitary desert, and I have nothing in it wherewith to call forth my affections. In comparison with this my other grievances are but light and inconsiderable. They are such, however, as ought not to be despised or overlooked. I am seven hours every day with the children, and, making allowance for necessary avocations, I have not above one hour for my own studies. I consider it likewise as rather unworthy treatment that I have not a room to myself, but that some of my pupils sleep in it along with me.” * *

“Matters grew worse as the summer months of 1798 rolled on. Though at first disposed to

favour one so zealously bent on the careful training of his children, his employer, won over at last by the predominating female influence, passed into the ranks of the enemy. The very servants, catching the spirit which prevailed elsewhere, were supposed to be insolent. The whole combined household were at war with him. The undaunted tutor resolved nevertheless to act his part with dignity and effect. Remonstrances were vain. To the wrong they did him in dismissing him, when company came, to his own room, they would apply no remedy. He devised therefore a remedy of his own. He was living near a town in which, through means of introductions given him by Fifeshire friends he had already formed some acquaintances. Whenever he knew that there was to be a supper from which he would be excluded, he ordered one in a neighbouring inn, to which he invited one or more of his own friends. To make his purpose all the more manifest, he waited till the servant entered with his solitary repast, when he ordered it away, saying, 'I sup elsewhere to-night.' Such curiously-timed tutorship suppers were not very likely to be relished by Mr. —, who charged him with unseemly and unseasonable pride. 'Sir,' said he, 'the very servants are complaining of your haughtiness. You have far too much pride.'—'There are two kinds of pride, sir,' was the reply. 'There is that kind of pride which lords it over inferiors; and there is that pride which rejoices in repressing the insolence of superiors. The first I have none of—the second I glory in.'

Such a connexion as the above of course could not last long. Dr. Chalmers terminated his experience of servitude in its most irksome form at the close of the year;—returned to St. Andrew's—and, on the plea of 'his pregnant pairs,' advanced in his behalf by a clear-sighted friend, was ordained a minister on the 31st of July, 1799. He was then only in his nineteenth year, 'whereas presbyteries were not wont to take students upon probationary trials till they had attained the age of twenty-one.'

Some little time seems to have elapsed after the investment of Chalmers with holy orders, before the desire of his childhood to preach reassumed ascendancy over the young man's passion for mathematics. One of his brothers, writing to Anstruther concerning his first appearances in the pulpit, which took place at Wigan, in Lancashire, spoke with hesitation of his success, describing him 'as awkward in his appearance.' Elegant in elocution and manner—such a show-apostle as the *Madame Pernelles* and the *Madame St. Dixiers* cherish Chalmers never became. But for few years he appears to have avoided rather than courted opportunities of practising his gift, under the apprehension of being thereby disturbed in the course of his scientific studies. There was, indeed, some chance at this period of the latter entirely carrying off the day, since we find him eagerly competing for, and gaining, the Mathematical Assistantship at St. Andrew's, in the year 1802. These lectures, 'from the Chair claimed by the calmest of all the sciences,' so far as the fragments given by Dr. Hanna warrant judgment, appear to have marked Chalmers's assumption of that fervid and somewhat florid style of eloquence, which at a later period carried his name so far and wide. They were considered—and perhaps not causelessly—too ornate and rhetorical.

'It was not unnatural that the old professor should be somewhat startled by the report of such appeals; and his doubtfulness about them might be increased on finding that, taking the precedent of former years as his guide, the students were not as far advanced as they had formerly been at the same period of the session. So strong in Mr. Chalmers was the appetite for the full intellectual sympathies of those whom he taught, that he could not move forward till every effort was made to carry the whole class along with him. His employer did not enter into, perhaps was incapable of sympathizing with, the spirit of such a procedure. The very excitement and delight which

were awakened among the students may have been displeasing to him. Doubts were expressed—jealousies arose—interferences took place—checks were attempted to be imposed. Such treatment could ill be brooked by one so keenly alive to everything which he considered ungenerous or unjust. * * * The scene in the Public Hall at the close of the session 1802-3, says one who witnessed it, 'was a singular one. When Dr. Rotheram, Professor of Natural Philosophy, had finished the examination of his class, Mr. Chalmers, whose classes were next in course, stepped forward to the table, and broke out into a severe invective against Professor Vilant, for having given testimonials to students without consulting him, their teacher. The speech was long and sarcastic. It was amusing to see the Academic Board; old Mr. Cook, irritated and vexed; Mr. Hill, puffy and fidgety; Dr. Playfair, getting up twice or thrice and tugging the speaker by the arm; Dr. Hunter, with unvarying countenance, his eyes sedately fastened on the floor; Dr. Rotheram, laughing and in anger by turns. At length Dr. Hill interfered, and with some difficulty silenced Mr. Chalmers, who proceeded with the examination as coolly as if nothing had passed.'

Nor was home remonstrance wanting in protest against the enthusiasm with which Chalmers devoted himself to his academical duties. The young man defended himself eagerly, and even after he had received an ordination to serve the parish of Kilmany, determined to reside in St. Andrew's, in order that he might still keep up his connexion with the University. Dismissed from the Assistantship, he opened mathematical and chemical classes of his own—in despite of much disapprobation and opposition, journalized by him in such terms as 'insulting manner—false and impudent calumny,' &c. &c. Succeeding to entries like these the record of 'a numerous and splendid audience,' makes it clear that the hardy and brilliant young lecturer was establishing his cause and his popularity in defiance of the reigning powers at St. Rule's. But he had still another antagonist to wrestle with and overthrow,—the Presbytery of Cupar. This body by no means approved of the division of the young minister's labours—as little of his remaining at nine miles' distant from his 'cure,' and brought the matter to a public hearing. The defensive plea 'put in by Chalmers run in the following strain.—

'I am not able to guess at the precise object of the gentleman in the public appearance he has just made. Does he mean that I should desert my classes, and renounce the interests of those whose friendship has consoled my feelings in the hour of perplexity? Does he mean that I should surrender those few who remained with me in my worst days, and rallied to support me amid the storms of persecuting violence? I will say it, in my cause they have evinced a spirit of the most exalted virtue. They have withstood the allurements of interest. They have defied the threats of persecution. They have spurned at the cold and withering suggestions of prudence. They have sacrificed all at the shrine of friendship; and though surrounded with the most corrupting atmosphere to which the manly and independent virtues were exposed, they have maintained the purity of an untainted honour, and the fidelity of an inviolable attachment. And are these the men whom the gentleman would force me to desert? Is this the painful humiliation he would impose upon me? Shall I leave them to the ridicule and triumph of those whom their attachment to me has rendered their enemies? He talks of the religious interests of my parish. I know nothing from which religion has suffered so severely as from the disgrace of its teachers. Compel me to retire from my classes, and you give a blow to the religious interests of my parish which all the punctualities of discipline will never restore. You render me the laughing-stock of the country; you cover me with infamy; you render me the object of public contempt and public execration. Compel me to retire, and I shall be fallen indeed. I would feel myself blighted in the eyes of all my acquaintances.

I would never more lift up my face in society. I would bury myself in the oblivion of shame and solitude. I would hide me from the world. I would be overpowered by the feeling of my own disgrace. The torments of self-reflection would pursue me; they would haunt my dreams; they would lay me on a bed of torture; they would condemn me to a life of restless and never-ceasing anxiety. Death would be to me the most welcome of all messengers. It would cut short the remainder of my ignominious days. It would lay me in the grave's peaceful retreat. It would withdraw me from the agitations of a life that has been persecuted by the injustice of enemies, and still more distracted by the treachery of violated friendship.'

For the moment, the attempt to prevent Chalmers from lecturing was quashed. But the matter was brought forward again to be answered—if answer it might be called—by Mr. Chalmers entering the lists for the Chair of Natural Philosophy at St. Andrew's, on the decease of Dr. Rotheram. This he failed in obtaining. In 1805, we find him in Edinburgh canvassing to succeed Mr. Playfair, as Mathematical Professor, and once more subjected to the necessity of having to defend the right of a Scottish clergyman to exhibit scientific attainments and to obtain scientific honours. Certainly this was done by Chalmers in a style more thorough-going than ecclesiastical: since in a publication issued by him on the occasion:—

'The author of this pamphlet,' he had said, 'can assert, from what to him is the highest of all authority, the authority of his own experience, that after the satisfactory discharge of his parish duties, a minister may enjoy five days in the week of uninterrupted leisure for the prosecution of any science in which his taste may dispose him to engage.'

It may be questioned whether, at a later period, five hours of "uninterrupted leisure" in one day of the week, could have been commanded by the preacher and the philanthropist.—Meanwhile his pursuits must have appeared sufficiently heterodox to the *Jenny Geddeses* and *Mistress McLarty's* of Kilmany; before whom he delivered a course of chemical lectures, by way of enlivening the dullness of ministerial life.—

"Among other experiments, the powers of the bleaching liquids were exhibited. Soon after the exhibition, two of the old wives of Kilmany had the following soliloquy:—'Our minister,' said the one, 'is naething short o' a warlock; he was teaching the folk to clean claes but (without) soap.'—'Aye, woman,' was the reply, 'I wish he wad teach me to mak parritch wur meal.'

Those, it will be recollected, were the days of the expected French invasion, when every good citizen, were he an antiquarian *Oldbuck* or a reverend *Blattergowl*, held himself in readiness to take up arms in opposition to the "Corsican Invader."

"From every pulpit in the land there came a voice, varied according to the spirit and character of its occupant. It was a thrillingly martial one which on this occasion issued from the pulpit of Kilmany, finding its climax in the exclamation:—'May that day when Bonaparte ascends the throne of Britain be the last of my existence; may I be the first to ascend the scaffold he erects to extinguish the worth and spirit of the country; may my blood mingle with the blood of patriots; and may I die at the foot of that altar on which British independence is to be the victim.' The preacher was quite ready to make good his words. Soon after the volunteers were organized, he enrolled himself in the St. Andrew's corps, holding a double commission as chaplain and lieutenant. In 1805, he joined the corps at Kirkaldy, where it was then on permanent duty."

In 1807, the events of Chalmers's life were varied by a visit to England. A few extracts from his journal of this period will assist us in forming a more intimate acquaintance with the man.—

"April 18th.—Found in the coach from Carlisle this morning, a lady and gentleman from Carlisle.

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The former disposed to be frank and communicative, but apparently under some control from the gentleman, who had probably prepared her to expect a very vulgar company. He had the tone and the confidence of polished life, but I never in my life witnessed such a want of cordiality, such a cold and repulsive deportment, such a stingy and suspicious air, and so much of that confounded spirit too prevalent among the bucks and fine gentlemen of the age.

The next entries are dated from Liverpool.—*"Sunday, April 26th.*—Preached in the forenoon for Mr. Kirkpatrick on the comforts of religion, and in the afternoon on drunkenness, the former with far more effect and impression than the latter. In the afternoon we met at three o'clock, after dinner, which has the effect of making both a drowsy preacher and a drowsy audience. Mrs. H. evidently reluctant in her testimony of approbation—disposed to overrate the deficiencies of manner and pronunciation, and asleep in the afternoon. * * Accompanied Mr. M.C. to dine in the river with Capt. Tucker on board the Union Guineaman. We reached the vessel—she was going out of dock, where we proceeded to an anchorage about a mile and a half off from Liverpool. We had the music of benevolence to drown all the relings of nature, and ladies waved their handkerchiefs from the shore to sanctify what was infamous, and deck the splendid villany of the trade."

In the following page we find the young Scottish minister weeping with perfect rapture "in that elysium of delight," the gardens of Blenheim.—

"The setting sun gleamed on the gilded orbs of Blenheim; through the dark verdure of trees were seen peeps of water and spots of grassy sunshine; the murmurs of the waterfall beneath soothed every anxiety within me, the bell of the village clock sent its music across the lake on my left. I sat motionless, and my mind slumbered in a reverie of enchantment."

Again and again we encounter protests against formal ceremonies and over-polished breeding—against all, in short, that is summed up by the jargonists of the day in those black six syllables—"Conventionalism." Here is a passage from a day in London.—

"On my return I met Mrs. and Miss —. By the way I have no patience for Mrs. —; not a particle of cordiality about her; cold, formal, and repulsive; a perfect stranger to the essence of politeness, with a most provoking pretension to its exterior; a being who carries in her very eye a hampering and restraining criticism; who sets herself forward as a pattern of correct manners—while she spreads pain, restraint, and misery around her; whose example I abominate and whose society I must shun, as it would blast all the joy and independence of London. * * Met at tea a Mr. M. He seems a mattering pretender to science; has a great respect for it; was very courteous and attentive to me. I accompanied both gentlemen to a lecture in Guy's Hospital. It was given that night by a Mr. Allen, a Quaker. The subject was, the Earth considered as a planet with its attendant Moon. It was quite narratory and illustrative, as I believe almost all scientific lectures are in England. He had about 100 hearers; and from the rapid and imperfect explanation he gave of his subject, I do not believe that one of them went away instructed. They still persevere, however, and think that their progress in philosophy is to be measured by the progress of the course. Oh, London! artful as a serpent in the dark and tortuous paths of iniquity, but simple and credulous as a child in the higher fields of intellect."

The Opera was displeasing to Chalmers, owing to "the squalling exertion of the performers," and the inordinate size of the theatre. The Pantomime "he did not enter into." Suburban sights were preferred.—

"The view of Twickenham was most charming. Pope's house was among the delightful residences that we gazed on with rapture from the opposite side. The river was enshrined with pleasure boats; and the gay London parties, walking and drinking tea on both sides, gave cheerfulness and animation

to the prospect. The idea, however, of vicinity to the metropolis pollutes all our rural impressions of this fascinating scene—takes off all that pure interest which the idea of simplicity confers, and mingles with original nature the vices, profligacy, and corruptions of civilized life. We ascended Richmond Hill; eyed with rapture the country before us; saw in the first scene that presented itself the wealth of the first city in the world, spreading its embellishment over the neighbourhood."

The great pulpit orator's criticism on the great theatrical elocutionist, is worth having.—

"Monday, May 18th.—The London Institution—Waxworks—Cosmorama—thence to the hustings, where I heard a most eloquent eulogium on Fox from the mouth of Sheridan—thence to the theatre, Covent Garden. The play was *Coriolanus*. The chief actors were Mrs. Siddons and Mr. Kemble. She had few opportunities of coming forward, but showed herself a great and impressive performer, and noble in the expression of heightened herical sentiment. I was electrified at the drawing out of the dagger, 'to die while Rome was free.' Kemble disgusted me at first; heavy and formal in the movement of his arms, and not able to drop the stateliness of his manner on trivial and unimportant occasions. He is too formal, artificial, and affected; but is more than tolerable—is great and admirable on those grand occasions when nature overpowers art, and the feelings are carried along by the strong, the vehement and the resistless."

A glimpse of the man of science at the dawn of gas-light.—

"Attended a lecture and exhibition of gas-lights at Pall Mall in the evening. The lecturer, Mr. W., is a mere empiric; not a particle of science, and even dull and uninteresting in his popular explanations. The Londoners listened with delight; and I pronounce the metropolis to be the best mart of impudence and ignorant folly. It is not worth the attending, though it might be rendered so with a better lecturer. My own conviction is, that with certain precautions gas will succeed. Returned at eleven in the evening."

Happily worded notices of Cambridge and York succeed,—all "the minute description" contained in the journal being omitted by Dr. Hanna. The memento, let us notice, was made serviceable and accurate by the introduction of pen-and-ink sketches. We shall conclude this pleasant passage of life and experience by the account of the young minister's return home.—

"After a survey of the island, he reached Berwick on the following day; and walking along the banks of the Tweed and the Teviot, found himself, about a week afterwards, in the hospitable manse of Robertson. 'I proposed,' says Mr. Shaw, 'when he left, to accompany him to Dr. Hardie's (about six miles distant), whence he intended to get to Pennycook next day. We set out accordingly on a Monday after breakfast. The next morning I expressed a wish that we should go as far as Galashiels, and call on Dr. Douglas; to which he consented, on condition that it must be only a short call. There, however, we were induced to spend the day. Next morning we took our departure on the way to Peebles; but in passing the hospitable residence of a family with whom I was intimately connected, I prevailed on him to call; and being much delighted with our kind reception, we remained till next morning, when we took our leave after breakfast. On our way up the Tweed, I suggested the propriety of our calling on my friend, Nicol of Traquair, whose manse was situated only about half a mile off the road. 'Well, sir,' was the reply, 'but it must be only for a minute or two, as I must get to Pennycook this night.' There, however, we spent the day most comfortably; and in the evening were so delighted with the music of the piano that we could not refrain dancing a few merry reels. At last, Chalmers took hold of my arm and exclaimed, 'It's out of the question my getting home this week. You have a good horse, so you must just proceed to-morrow morning to Kilmany, and I will go back to Robertson.' To this proposal I readily agreed. Nicol was amazed, and seemed to think we were both getting deranged. On awaking next morning and perceiving that it rained, I began to groan a

little, when my friend pulled me out of bed, and ordered me to set off with all convenient speed. Off I accordingly rode, and reached Kilmany about eight o'clock at night. Chalmers went from Nicol's to Hardie's on the Friday—we parted at Traquair—and on Saturday to Robertson parish, where he wrote a poetical farewell to Teviotdale, and preached a brilliant sermon on 'Look not on the wine when it is red.' (Prov. xxiii. 31.) Afterwards, on his way home, he called at Abbotshall, and gave me a minute and amusing account of all his proceedings, concluding with high glee and emphasis, 'This famous exploit will immortalize us, sir.' I regret that I cannot find his Farewell to Teviotdale, which I must have somehow mislaid."

We have loitered more long and minutely over this early period of Dr. Chalmers's life than it may be possible to do in dealing with any subsequent section. The world—especially that portion of the world styled "serious"—is too apt to disdain such memorials as frivolous, or, at least, as valuable or instructive only in illustration of the change which passes over the character when convictions deepen and duties assume a more settled form. But even if we had not an enjoyment in tracing character for its own sake, we hold them essential to a right appreciation of the active, genial and courageous spirit which animated the devotional exercises of Dr. Chalmers's later years. One or two of the extracts cited may strike others besides ourselves as in style resembling the writings of Chateaubriand. But—to indulge for one moment in Chateaubriand's vein of speculation—betwixt the two men and the two lives, how vast was the difference!

The Romance of the Peerage; or, Curiosities of Family History. By George Lillie Craik. Vols. II. and III. Chapman & Hall.

ALTHOUGH we did not notice the second volume of Mr. Craik's work at the period of its publication, we read it then with the interest and satisfaction due to a good subject carefully handled.—The author is not content with the mere printed authorities patent to all readers, but dips deeply and successfully into hidden manuscript treasures; now and then reversing what before has been received as truth, yet more often throwing new light on points hitherto but imperfectly understood. The same painstaking conscientious care which characterized the first volume is illustrated in the volumes now before us.

As many of our readers are, probably, by this time familiar with the contents of Mr. Craik's second volume, we shall confine ourselves to that which has been more recently issued. The subjects introduced are varied with skill. We have, for instance, the story of Charles Brandon's widow and her second husband,—leading to much curious information connected with the Lords Willoughby of Eresby, of Brooke, and of Parham; the story of Sir Robert Dudley, the base-born son of Queen Elizabeth's Lord Leicester; the story of Bess of Hardwick and the Talbots; a chapter on the Cavendishes and the Stanhopes; all that is known of the Wharton and Stuart duel in the reign of James the First,—a kind of English and Scottish quarrel, far from uncommon in that reign; the still more striking and memorable duel, of the same national character, between Bruce and Sir Edward Sackville; and the story of Lord Crichton of Sanquhar. The volume opens with a chapter on 'The Hereditary Principle'; and concludes with the story of the long string of claimants to the Earldom of Menteith,—a claim on which so much money has been spent within our own time, and on which a still larger sum is likely to be spent, it is said, before many years shall be over.

Bess of Hardwick—a name familiarly known

to English tourists as the builder of five mansion-houses, Worksop, Bolsover, Oldcotes, Chatsworth, and Hardwick, and as the wife of four husbands—is thus introduced to us by Mr. Craik.—

"The woman who plays the most energetic part in the family history of the Peerage in the latter part of the sixteenth century is the famous Elizabeth Hardwick,—successively Mrs. Barlow, Lady Cavendish, Lady Saint Loe, and Countess of Shrewsbury. * * She was renowned in her own day, and still is in popular tradition, for her passion for building, and for the great houses she erected at Hardwick, at Chatsworth, and at Oldcotes; she may also be said to have been the founder of the two great dual houses of Devonshire and Newcastle; but she is most worthy of memory as the architect of her own fortunes. Her father was a country gentleman, John Hardwick, Esquire, of Hardwick, in the county of Derby, a property of some four hundred acres or thereby, on which his ancestors had been seated for five or six generations. Here, probably, on the hilly western border of Sherwood Forest, Elizabeth was born,—as it would appear, in the year 1517 or 1518. She was one of many sisters, most if not all of whom were, as they grew up, disposed of in marriage among the neighbouring gentry; but no other of whom ever rose above their original station, or came to be in any way distinguished. She had concentrated in herself all the ambition of her race. The Hardwick young ladies, however, probably had a reputation for good sense and good training, which, at least with a moderate accompaniment of good looks, will generally do more than either great beauty or the cleverest management in the game of matrimony, as played in actual life. It could scarcely be their wealth, at any rate, that won them husbands; for all the portion that their father could afford them, it seems, was the sum of forty marks, or not quite 27*l.* a-piece. With no more gilding than that, Elizabeth Hardwick had the luck, while still in early girlhood, to make prize of one of the most opulent landholders in Derbyshire. She is said to have been only fourteen when she became the wife of Robert Barlow, Esquire, of Barlow, who seems to have been himself not much older. It is related that the match was the result of a visit which Mrs. Elizabeth chanced to pay to a London relation, a Lady Zouch, in whose house Barlow was staying, confined by a chronic disease to his chamber, where the young lady, taking upon herself the office of his nurse, came to be his constant and almost sole companion, and, naturally enough, soon won her patient's heart, if she did not also lose her own. But it is probable that when they were married there was no hope of Barlow's recovery: that would account for his having settled, as we are told he did, all, or nearly all, his estates upon his bride and her heirs. At all events he died very soon after, on the 2nd of February 1533. * * The juvenile and wealthy widow was in no great haste to marry again. It was not till more than fourteen years after the death of Barlow, or till her age had been doubled, or more than doubled, that she entered upon her second wedlock. Then she accepted the hand of Sir William Cavendish, of Cavendish, in Suffolk. The marriage took place, as Cavendish has himself recorded in a minute chronicle of his domestic history which still exists in his own handwriting, at Broadgate, in Leicestershire, the house of the Marquis of Dorset, on the 20th of August 1547, 'at two of the clock after midnight.' * * When her next marriage took place is not recorded; but certainly before August 1561, and possibly some years before that date, she had become the wife of Sir William Saint Loe, Captain of the Guard to the Queen, and the possessor of several fair lordships in Gloucestershire. All these she demanded should be settled, in default of issue from her new marriage, upon herself and her heirs, that is to say her children by her former husband; and to this condition the enamoured Captain of the Guard found himself obliged to assent. 'Accordingly,' we are told, 'having no issue by him, she lived to enjoy his whole estate, excluding his former daughters and brothers.' When he died is not stated. * * Her fourth husband is George Talbot, sixth Earl of Shrewsbury,—already by a former wife the father of four sons and three daughters. So here

were five families brought together into one—those of Cavendish by his three wives, that of St. Loe by his first wife, and that of the Talbotts—making in all above twenty children. It is impossible that the Earl in his position could do what his predecessor the Captain of the Guard had so weakly done, and settle his property away from his existing children upon his new wife and her heirs; but she secured her object, as far as it was attainable, in another way. She insisted, before she would give herself to Shrewsbury, upon his giving two of his children in marriage to two of hers. His eldest son, Francis, Lord Talbot, was already married; that could not be helped; but after all, it turned out to be rather fortunate for the provident mother's schemes,—for Lord Talbot died before his father, and left no issue. Meanwhile she consented to accept the Earl's second son, Gilbert, for her daughter Mary, and his eldest unmarried daughter, the Lady Grace Talbot, for her eldest son, Henry Cavendish. These two marriages were solemnized at Sheffield, on the 9th of February 1568,—Mary Cavendish being as yet only a child not quite twelve years old. The wedding of the father and mother followed after a brief interval: it had certainly taken place before October. The age of the new Countess was at least fifty; the Earl might be of about the same standing."

With many of these facts the readers of Miss Costello's 'Memoirs of Eminent Englishwomen' are already acquainted.—The general belief that Hardwick was one of the houses in which Mary Queen of Scots was confined, is at least doubtful; but this is certain,—Mary never inhabited the present Hardwick: for, as the Duke of Devonshire, its owner, is in the habit of observing to his guests, the distressing date of 1599 "stares us in the face on door and dado."

The story of Bruce's duel with Sackville has been rendered popular for nearly a century and a half by its insertion in 'The Guardian'; there are points, however, connected with it which have only of late come to light. The episode of the Bruce's heart suggests the stirring and romantic scenes through which the heart of a still greater Bruce was carried by the good Lord James.—

"There had always been a tradition in Scotland that his heart had been sent over from Holland, and that it was interred in the family vault or burying-ground adjoining to the old Abbey Church of Culross in Perthshire, where his father had built the magnificent seat called Culross Abbey, still standing. And, on a search being made in the year 1808, the belief transmitted for two centuries, without record or other memorial than the faithful speech of the people, was proved to be well-founded. About two feet below the level of the pavement, and partly under an old projection of the wall of the church, two flat stones were discovered, measuring each four feet by two, strongly fastened together with iron; they bore no inscription, but when they were separated they were found to inclose in a hollow between them a silver case shaped like a heart. It was evidently of foreign workmanship. On the lid were engraved the words *Edward Lord Bruce*, with a coat of arms intended for that of the Bruce family, and a delineation of the ramification of the veins in a human heart. There were two hinges at the broad end, and two clasps near the opposite extremity or point, to which a ring was attached. On the case being opened, it was found to contain a heart carefully embalmed in a liquid of a brownish colour. Accurate drawings were taken both of the case, which was only opened twice, and of the appearance presented by the wrinkled remnant that had been trusted to its keeping,—once the seat of life and passion and so high a spirit; and then everything was reverentially replaced as before. 'There was also,' it is stated, 'a small leaden box between the stones in another excavation; the contents of which, whatever they might have been originally, appeared now reduced to dust.' The spot has been since indicated by a brass plate exhibiting an engraving of the silver case, with a short inscription."

When Mr. Craik shall reprint his account of the Wharton and Stuart duel, he will do well to introduce the entry in the Accounts of the

Treasurer of the King's Chamber, recently printed by the Shakespeare Society:—

"To Henry Reynoldes upon the Councils Warrant of 10 Nov. 1609, for charges disbursed by him for the burial of Sir George Wharton and Sir James Steward, at Islington, xxx*li.* xv." The amount is large for a hurried funeral, but what is still more curious, the warrant for payment is dated on the very day on which the duel is said to have been fought,—so soon had the ferocious combat and terrible tragedy reached the ears of the King and his Privy Council. Mr. Craik is, however, of opinion that the duel was fought on the 8th; though the ballad printed in the 'Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border' places it on the 10th—on which day, as appears by the parish register, Stuart and Wharton were buried at Islington.

Excursions in Southern Africa, including a History of the Cape Colony, an Account of the Native Tribes, &c. By Lieut.-Colonel E. Elers Napier. 2 vols. Shoberl.

THE daily reader of despatches from the colonies will recollect the excitement produced in England in July 1846 by the arrival of disastrous news from the scene of the Kaffir war, and the instant equipment of a war-steamer to bear to the Cape a commission of seven field-officers, charged with special services. Lieut.-Col. Napier was one of the seven so sent out. Years before these events he had been in that colony, and paid some attention to its history:—he consequently took out with him an ampler share of knowledge of his new quarters than is commonly possessed by his countrymen. At the conclusion of the war Col. Napier returned to England; and, as he says, "being—after repeated offers of service—still unemployed, for the sake of occupation as much as of any thing else" he took to writing books about the fate and prospects of the colony from which he had just returned. His first production—as he now avows—was 'The Book of the Cape,' published anonymously, and noticed by us last week [p. 1239]:—the intemperate and extreme opinions asserted in which prevented any publisher from accepting it until Mrs. Ward had drawn her revising pen across its more acrimonious lines. In so doing, however, the judicious editress travelled, the author considers, beyond her warrant; and made his book the vehicle for conveying sentiments on colonial government, the convict question, and other matters, against which he holds it necessary to enter a formal protest in the work now before us.

Col. Napier takes up the Cape as a man takes up any political grievance. On the various questions to the discussion of which the colony has given rise in this country,—the deeds and misdeeds of the missionaries,—the conversion and civilization of the Hottentot race,—the rights of the Kaffirs to the soil on which they live,—the various wrongs of the Dutch settlers of Natal,—emigration,—local government,—the convict system,—on all these points and problems he declaims and dogmatizes with a ferocity which might perhaps compel attention in the camp or the mess-room, but which can find little favour in the court of criticism. His plan for managing convicts is a good specimen of his rough and ready way of doing the work of government. First, he says, make your laws more severe. If that will not prevent crime, then form your convicted offenders into a "condemned military corps," ship them off to Sierra Leone and to the other "poisonous shores" of the African coasts and rivers. Once transport them there,—they would not, he thinks, long trouble the mother-country. Nature would take her own course with her erring

children—and the free emigrant would soon
 come to complain of the infusion of vicious ele-
 ments into his family and society.—To show
 the absurdity—the wickedness—of such a
 scheme in this stage of the proposal we hold to
 be needless. It will be soon enough to argue
 the moral of the plan when Col. Napier shall
 have told us how he will keep this convict-
 army in order. The practice of now and then
 sending a man into the ranks for breach of law
 is not unknown in many countries; but the idea
 of placing arms in the hands of a large body of
 men bound together by the tie of a common
 degradation, and then sending them to do mili-
 tary service in a poisonous swamp, has a
 novelty and daring about it which is startling
 in these days of improved humanity. As a
 soldier, Col. Napier ought to understand the
 difficulties which would lie in the way of an
 efficient control of such a body; and, though civil-
 ians, we may be permitted to entertain a doubt
 whether this is the best means of making
 "crime useful to commerce and civilization."
 The suggestion of it seems to have some misgivings,
 in spite of his peremptoriness: for he throws
 out another hint, in a note,—to the effect that
 we might make of the same convicts "a most
 agreeable present to the King of Mosquito."
 Lieut.-Col. Napier has the merit of being con-
 sistent in his sympathies. He consigns the
 English felon or forger to the malaria of Sierra
 Leone with the same hearty good-will that
 he accepts the destruction of whole nations
 of the native tribes. His hatred and con-
 tempt for a dark skin take, in these volumes,
 the form of a needless character of harshness.
 Whoever stands between the native and the
 white man's injustice comes in for a share of the
 abuse plentifully lavished.—Where he is not
 controversial, Col. Napier is more amusing and
 edifying. The history of the Cape settlement
 is neither so full nor so accurate as could have
 been wished; but it is a useful summary for the
 class of readers who have not leisure to consult
 the old records of the Dutch and the volumi-
 nous blue-books of more recent date. The chap-
 ters on the native tribes, though not written in
 a spirit of perfect fairness, are interesting:—
 from these chapters we shall make an extract
 or two. Reversing the order in which the por-
 traits are presented by Col. Napier, we begin
 with the lowest in physical type and moral
 character.—
 "Lastly come the 'Baroas': that pigmy race,
 generally known to us as 'Bushmen,' or 'Bosjes-
 mans'—the Obiquas, Sonquas, Soaquas, Mountain
 Banditti, or Buschies—so often alluded to in the
 olden records of the Cape. Their identity cannot
 possibly be mistaken,—the alleged aboriginal pos-
 sessors of the soil—but who, among all the surrounding
 native tribes, have (since European acquaintance
 with this part of the world) been ever stigmatized as
 the 'Pariahs' and outcasts of 'Hottentotism'; whose
 hand, like that of the descendants of Ishmael, is still
 —and appears ever to have been—raised against
 every man, and every man's hand ever was, and is
 still, raised in self-defence against them. Such were
 the relations this unfortunate but mischievous—and
 though diminutive, yet dangerous—race bore to the
 other Hottentot tribes, on the first arrival of Euro-
 peans at the Cape; and such it has ever continued
 to be, in relation to every nation and class, with
 whom, since then, they have successively been
 brought in contact. The Dutch Boer, the Griqua,
 the Bechuana, the Kaffir, all entertain the same
 dread of, and aversion to, these dwarfish hordes; who
 armed with their diminutive bows and poisoned
 arrows recklessly plunder and devastate, without
 regard either to nation or colour; and are in their
 turn hunted down and destroyed like beasts of prey,
 which in many respects they so nearly resemble.
 * * * Time, a knowledge of, and an occasional inter-
 course with people more civilized than themselves,
 have made little change in the habits and disposition

of this extraordinary race. The Bushman still con-
 tinues unrelenting to plunder, and cruelly to destroy,
 whenever the opportunity presents itself. His resi-
 dence is still amongst inaccessible hills, in the rude
 cave or cleft of the rock.—On the level karroo, in the
 shallow burrow, scooped out with a stick, and sheltered
 with a frail mat. He still, with deadly effect, draws
 his diminutive bow, and shoots his poisoned arrows
 against man and beast. Disdaining labour of any
 kind, he seizes, when he can, on the farmers' herds
 and flocks; recklessly destroys what he cannot de-
 vour; wallows for consecutive days with vultures and
 jackals, amidst the carcasses of the slain; and when
 fully gorged to the throat, slumbers in lethargic
 stupor, like a wild beast; till, aroused by hunger,
 he is compelled to wander forth again in quest of
 prey. When he cannot plunder cattle, he eagerly
 pursues the denizens of the waste; feasts indifferently
 on the lion or the hedgehog; and, failing such dainty
 morsels, philosophically contents himself with roots,
 bulbs, locusts, ants, pieces of hide steeped in water
 —or, as a last resource, he tightens his 'girdle of
 famine,' and, as Pringle says:—
 He lays him down, to sleep away,
 In languid trance, the weary day.

Whether this precarious mode of existence may, or
 may not, have influenced the personal appearance
 and stature of the Bushmen, it is difficult to say;
 but a more wretched-looking set of beings cannot
 easily be imagined. The average height of the men
 is considerably under five feet, that of the women
 little exceeding four. Their shameless state of nearly
 complete nudity—their brutalized habits of voracity,
 filth and cruelty of disposition—appear to place them
 completely on a level with the brute creation whilst
 the 'clicking' tones of a language, composed of the
 most unpronounceable and discordant noises, more
 resemble the jabbering of apes, than sounds uttered
 by human beings."

From this, the most degraded race in the
 world, we pass to another,—the Griquas or Bas-
 taards; a half-cast race, which is rapidly rising
 into great importance at the Cape, and will most
 likely exercise a mighty influence on the course
 of future events in Southern Africa. This curi-
 ous race, whose name is as yet but little fami-
 liar to European ears, are settled along the
 banks of the Gariep for 700 miles. They num-
 ber already fifteen or twenty thousand,—five
 thousand of whom are armed with muskets.
 They are devoted to agriculture, and have large
 possessions in cattle and horses. They are
 exceedingly warlike—as might be expected from
 their origin,—and have more than once arrested
 the progress of invading hordes of savages. A
 very notable instance of this was the defeat
 and dispersion of those hosts of M-ntates
 which had overrun and destroyed everything
 in their way north of the Orange river, in 1823,
 when the furious Chaka and his conquering
 Zoolahs had set all the tribes of the interior in
 motion. Waterboer and his band of Griquas
 met and stopped this destructive torrent. A
 race so gallant could not long remain subject
 either to savage countrymen or to civilized
 strangers. The English Government has ac-
 knowledged their independence.

Between these two races stands the common
 Hottentot:—of whom there is a striking but
 severe likeness drawn in these volumes. Col.
 Napier says:—

"No animal is more gregarious, or sociable than
 the modern Totty: let him, after the longest and
 most wearisome march across the arid Karoo—let
 him have only a cracked fiddle, a Jew's-harp, his
 'vrouw,' two or three jolly companions, with a due
 supply of liquor and tobacco—when, forgetful of
 past labour or actual weariness, and only think-
 ing of present enjoyment—he will light a fire
 under the 'bush,' and drink, talk, sing and dance
 around it, during the greater part of the night,
 thoughtless of the coming toils and fatigues of the
 morrow. Though most fully appreciating the good
 things of this life, when actually placed within his
 reach, yet, such is the natural indolence of the Hot-
 tentot, that he will seldom put himself in the least

out of the way to go in quest of the same. Often,
 after a long journey, when half famished—often he
 will prefer the alternative of tightening his 'girdle
 of famine,' rolling himself in his blanket, and sleeping
 off the cravings of hunger, to the trouble of going
 to a neighbouring farm, where he might obtain the
 requisite supplies for his evening meal. This said
 'girdle of famine' is a leather belt, worn round the
 waist by most of the natives of Southern Africa. It
 is gradually tightened, when hunger is felt, without
 the means of satisfying the same; and, although a
 Kaffir or Hottentot will, at a single meal, devour,
 when procurable, as much animal flesh as would
 satisfy half a dozen Europeans, he can, with the
 above assistance—and when impelled by necessity—
 refrain from food for an extraordinary length of time.
 In short, the Hottentot of the present day is a com-
 pound of the strangest anomalies; and appears to be
 made up of a mixture of the greatest contradictions
 and inconsistencies of human nature. Indolent, de-
 bauched, and drunken, as he naturally is, still, by a
 knowledge of the ingredients of his composition, and
 a judicious display of firmness, tempered by kindness
 and good treatment, he is easily to be managed; and
 though no great reliance can ever be placed on him,
 in charges of trust, he—like the Sepoy, under Euro-
 pean discipline and leaders—makes, when sober, a
 good and gallant soldier; and it is on the Cape
 Mounted Rifles—composed chiefly of this race—that
 many of the greatest hardships, fatigues, and
 dangers of the last and former Kaffir wars have prin-
 cipally fallen."

On the question of the rapid decay of these
 native tribes Col. Napier waxes warm and
 wrathful. He denies that the elements of de-
 cay for the black man came in with the white,
 —but is curiously unhappy in his assignment
 of better reasons for his decline. According to
 him, these are—accidental disease, idleness, de-
 fective hygiene, and drunkenness. Is anybody
 unaware that strong waters and the diseases
 which are most fatal to the Savage were both
 introduced by Europeans? Is any one still
 ignorant that the vices which have depopulated
 America and Australia, as well as the seaboard
 of Africa, are the vices of civilization?

Let us search for pleasanter matter.—Take
 the following sketch:—

"During one of these wanderings, I stumbled on
 a small thatched cottage, or rather hut, in a remote
 and secluded dell. Hot, thirsty, and fatigued, I
 gladly accepted the proffered hospitality of the aged
 man who owned this humble abode. He regaled
 me with all he had to offer—a draught of milk, with
 some coarse bread and fruit—whilst partaking of
 which, I learned from him the story of his life, and
 what had brought him to such a distant, unfrequented
 spot. Mine host, apparently between seventy and
 eighty years of age—an Englishman by birth, and
 brought up to a seafaring course of life—was one of
 the few survivors belonging to the crew of a ship,
 which nearly half a century ago had been wrecked
 upon this stormy coast. After wandering about for
 some time, he at last took to himself a native wife,
 and settled down in this retired spot; where, 'the
 world forgetting and by the world forgot,' he has
 happily and contentedly spent so large a portion
 of his life; and hopes, as he said, at last quietly to
 end his days. 'Here,' said the philosophic old
 mariner, in a half English half Dutch idiom of his
 own, but to the following purport: 'Here I am
 happy, and want for nothing. Whenever I feel at
 all out of sorts, I walk up to yonder bluff "kopf,"
 or headland—I look at the boisterous waves buffet-
 ting some unfortunate bark—such, say I to myself,
 was my former position in life; I then turn round
 and look down on my humble cottage; in this quiet
 and sheltered kloof, on my sons, working in the
 field or garden; on my daughter, with her little ones
 prattling around; on my two cows, and my flock
 of goats. 'Mutinous lubber!' I then invariably
 exclaim, 'what more dost thou want?' and not
 being able to answer this question, I always return
 happy and contented to my pipe and sunny seat,
 here on the stoep.'"

We have space for only one more extract;
 and that must give our readers a glimpse of a

"mighty hunter,"—with whom and his doings, if we be not mistaken, they have made acquaintance once before.—

"My informants stated Mr. Cumming to be the son of a Scotch baronet; that his love of 'woodcraft,' and deer-stalking propensities amongst the Highlands, had at an early age got him into serious scrapes, to avoid the consequences of which he went to sea, was for some time in India, then returned home, when his friends obtained for him a commission in the Cape Mounted Rifles. It appears, however, that the trammels of military restraint ill-accommodated with the roving disposition of the sporting recruit, who, on being refused, shortly after joining his regiment, permission to absent himself on a shooting excursion into the interior, took 'French leave,' and, on his return, about a twelvemonth afterwards, found, as might have been expected, that his name had been erased from the Army List. The course of life he had selected appeared however much more adapted to his tastes and habits than the dull routine of parade or drill; and for several years past he is said to have subsisted entirely on the produce of his rifle; returning generally to the Colony after an absence of ten or twelve months, his waggons laden with ivory, skins, and ostrich feathers, by the sale of which, it is believed, he generally realizes several hundred pounds at each trip. According to some accounts, when on these expeditions, he occasionally adapts himself to the costume as well as the customs of the natives; travelling about when so minded, quite in Kaffir fashion, without even the encumbrance of a kaross; but that, when in the Colony, he indulges in the strangest eccentricities of dress, not unfrequently astonishing the natives of Graham's Town with the picturesque habiliments of the middle ages, or of the times of Charles the First. * * A few days afterwards, whilst sauntering under the shade of the fine young oak trees, which line each side of the broad main street at Graham's Town, I beheld an athletic young man, whose extraordinary costume instantly attracted my attention. His dress consisted of a pair of rough 'veld-schoenen,' white trowsers and shirt, without waistcoat or jacket; a leather girdle tightly encircled his waist, whilst, on his head, he wore a broad-brimmed hat, adorned with jackals' tails, and surrounded by a magnificent plume of the finest ostrich feathers. 'That,' thinks I to myself, 'must be the very man I want to see;' I therefore stepped across the street, and asked him at once if his name was not Cumming?—and on his saying it was, after duly introducing myself, I told him I had heard so much of his exploits that I determined to form his acquaintance; and moreover, having brought out from England a rifle of great calibre, as I found such an article was to me perfectly useless, he might perhaps like to take it off my hands, which reasons would, I trusted, be accepted as an apology for so very abrupt a mode of introduction. The 'lion-slayer' I had pictured to myself was a swarthy, hairy, sunburnt, Salvator Rosa brigand-looking fellow, with a voice of thunder, and with the manners of a savage—in short, in every respect a very Morok; what was therefore my surprise on beholding quite the reverse of all that I had imagined. Before me stood a noble-looking young man of about six-and-twenty years of age, standing at least six feet high in his stockings (had he worn such a superfluous article of dress), and, although built like a Hercules, his manly form was most elegantly moulded, surmounted by a finely shaped head, luxuriantly adorned with silken locks of a flaxen hue, which negligently hung over a countenance of an almost feminine cast of beauty, beaming with good nature and the mildest light blue eyes; and when he spoke, his silvery and gentle tones emulated the softness of a woman's voice. Such was the appearance of the great T. Somtseu, who, after expressing himself flattered at what he was pleased to call the undeserved compliments I had paid to his well-earned reputation: 'I dare say,' continued he, in the same soft and attractive tone of voice, 'you have heard that I have turned a regular "smoutch," but I think I have a right as long as I molest no one, to choose my own course of life; for whilst indulging in the roving and adventurous existence I ever delighted in, I earn what I consider a gentlemanly livelihood, which enables me to follow to the utmost the bent of my inclinations. My waggons

are now laden with ivory, karosses, ostrich feathers, and other articles, which I hope will realize almost a thousand pounds. This is the produce of nearly a year's amusement; and, when turned into cash, I shall be able therewith to replace the many horses and oxen I have lost, and re-equip myself to start again in quest of fresh excitement, profit, and adventure. However,' added he, 'if you will come to my waggon just outside the town, I shall be very happy to show you its contents, and to give you any information which you may require, or first, if you prefer, we can go and look at your large "elephant roer."' I remarked, as we walked along, I had heard so many marvellous stories put down to his account, that, unless confirmed by himself they were certainly beyond my powers of belief. 'For instance,' said I, 'only last night, in a circle of friends assembled at Fort England, I heard it positively stated, that you recently not only "bearded a lion" in his very den, but slew him there, and were afterwards found asleep, with your head pillowed on his lifeless carcase.'—'These sort of things,' said he, 'are always exaggerated, and the only credit I deserve is, that of being a tolerable shot and having pretty good nerves, the sole qualifications required on such occasions. As for the story of sleeping in the lion's den, I have never, to my knowledge, proved such a Daniel—though, on more than one occasion, I certainly have been asleep, while those gentlemen were prowling about so close to me, that I have been awakened by their angry growls.'—'Pray tell me how you ever came to be placed in such a very unpleasant situation?'—'From experience,' replied he, 'I found that the easiest and perhaps safest way of destroying lions, was to do so from a hole deep enough to conceal a man's body; and, when I shot a large animal such as a rhinoceros or buffalo, near a pool of water or a brook—I often had recourse to the above device. The hole was dug very near the carcase, and, at night-fall I would ensconce myself therein, to wait till the animals which had come to drink should have thoroughly gorged themselves; when they were, generally speaking, easily knocked over from my place of concealment. I have however sometimes been so thoroughly fagged on taking up my position, as to have fallen asleep, and been awakened by angry discussions occurring over the mangled remains of the slain. On one occasion, when thus disturbed from my slumbers, I found myself surrounded by five enormous lions, one of which took it into its head to look down over the ledge of the hole which concealed me—but a discharge right in his face caused him to pay with his life the penalty of such impertinent curiosity, and this perhaps may be the origin of the story about my nap in the lion's den.'"

This enterprising trafficker keeps, it is said, a daily journal of what he sees and does. Probably he knows more than any other person living of the state of interior Africa—of the features of the country and the habits and character of the inland nations: having penetrated many hundred miles beyond the line known to have been passed by any other white man.—How valuable this knowledge, and the physical hardihood which accompanies it, might be made to geography, natural history, and commerce, we need not say.

The Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography of England, Parts I.—III. Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and London. J. H. Parker.

THIS is perhaps the most valuable of the recent publications on Archaeology. The object proposed to be attained by the editor is, to give a succinct description of the chief architectural peculiarities of every parish church in the kingdom;—and however gigantic the design may be, it has so far as the work has proceeded been satisfactorily executed. The counties are described according to their ecclesiastical partition into deaneries; and the notices of the churches have been supplied in numerous instances by the resident clergy,—one of the chief contributors throughout being the Rev.

Henry Addington. It is a useful feature in the work, that references are given to any engravings which may exist of the churches and of their contents. There are also short notes of all ancient architectural remains in the several parishes,—ecclesiastical or domestic.

Of the three counties described, Buckinghamshire possesses the fewest fine churches:—those of North Marston, Priors Risborough, Chilton, and Hillesden being the best. This is not very surprising:—as in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries it was perhaps the poorest county in England. It is interesting in a statistical point of view to read over the returns called the "Nonae," made in the reign of Edward the Third—and which show the state of the purely agricultural districts of England towards the middle of the fourteenth century. Almost all the parishes of Buckinghamshire are described as being much impoverished, and uninhabited by "chattellers" and merchants:—as a natural consequence, means were wanting to build fine churches. At that period there were not even in the town of Buckingham any traders who could pay a fifteenth of their goods to the Crown. The entire sum levied on the chattellers of Aylesbury amounted only to 39s. 8d.,—and Wycombe, the richest borough in the county, yielded no more than 7l. 2s. 1½d. What the church of Buckingham may have been, we cannot tell, as it was rebuilt in 1781: but it was probably as poor as the town. The churches of Aylesbury and Wycombe, in which town traders dwelt in the middle ages, were and are large noticeable edifices. Three of the four best churches above enumerated were perhaps built by the religious communities to whom the parishes chiefly belonged:—Monks or Priors Risborough by the monks of Canterbury, and Chilton and Hillesden by the monks of Nodley. It appears by the returns in question that the parishes of Chilton, Hillesden, and North Marston were on an equality in respect of their agricultural opulence.

In preparing the future parts of this work, we would suggest that some references might be advantageously made to those records which bear directly on ecclesiastical topography:—most of which are printed. For instance, we notice that of five of the Buckinghamshire churches it is stated, that the names of saints to whom they were dedicated are unknown:—surely there can be no great difficulty in ascertaining them, and from various sources. There are few sepulchral monuments of much notability now extant in the churches of this county:—the best are at Clifton Reynes. The remains of carved woodwork are considerable: some of it being remarkably good,—particularly the rood-screen at North Crawley, which is curiously painted. Of painted glass, little has escaped destruction.—In conclusion, it may be observed that while several of the churches belong to the Early English and Decorated periods,—the majority, as usual, are of mixed styles.

For the present, we take leave of this valuable work, with every wish for its continuation and success.—The labour bestowed on it must be great, and should be appreciated. We had marked a few errors for correction,—but they are of no great importance. One, nevertheless, should not pass:—the reading of the inscription on the sepulchral brass of Nicholas de Aumerdene, at Taplow, should clearly be "pensioner de Londres," not "pensioner." Nicholas was a fishmonger:—his calling, moreover, is indicated by the fish on which the cross is supported.

Sir Hug
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Notice
By the
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Sir Hugh of Lincoln; or, an Examination of a curious Tradition respecting the Jews; with a Notice of the Popular Poetry connected with it.
By the Rev. Abraham Hume, L.L.D. J. R. Smith.

It is not many months since we had occasion to allude to the wide-spread tradition of mediæval times that the Jews were in the habit of abducting and crucifying Christian children in order to show their contempt of the Christian faith. In the middle of the thirteenth century, the Jews of Lincoln were accused of stealing a child of tender age, named Hugh, and of putting him to death in that manner. It was, perhaps, not the mere result of chance that in whatever country or at whatever period such a charge was brought against a Jewish community, at that particular juncture the sovereign in whose realm they were living was in want of money. In the year 1255 King Henry the Third was at his wife's end for ways and means. His son, Prince Edward, had in the previous year married Eleanor of Castile, and that princess was expected to arrive in England at the beginning of autumn. She was preceded by ambassadors from the King of Spain, for whose reception and due entertainment Henry issued various orders of a contradictory nature—now liberal, now parsimonious—which clearly show the exhausted state of his exchequer. To add to his difficulties, he had certain troubles to settle for his sister the Queen of Scotland, and had therefore travelled northward to the borders. Luckily for him, it occurred to the Jews of Lincoln—some of the wealthiest in the kingdom—to steal and crucify the child Hugh at this critical moment. They were punished—and their confiscated property very conveniently recruited the royal treasury.

Matthew Paris is the best contemporary chronicler of the incident,—and his narrative was copied by all succeeding annalists. It would appear, also, that before the close of Henry's reign an Anglo-French ballad was composed on the same event; which became, doubtless, a popular theme among the itinerant minstrels of following centuries. The story is familiar to those students of English and Scottish literature who have read the collections of ancient poetry made by Bishop Percy, by Pinkerton and by Jamieson—to say nothing of Gilchrist and Motherwell. The ballad of 'The Jew's Dochter,' first published in the 'Reliques' by Percy, is in the Scottish dialect, as are all the other examples of it,—or at any rate in a high northern vernacular. The Bishop of Dromore's version opens after this fashion:—

The rain rins down through Mirry-land toun,
See doils it doun the Pa';
See doils the lads of Mirry-land toun,
Quhan they play at the ba'.

It is in all likelihood the most ancient of the English copies. Dr. Percy considered "Mirry-land toun" to be "probably a corruption of Milan (called by the Dutch Meylandt) town." Headed—"The Pa is evidently the river Po, although the Adige, not the Po, runs through Milan." It could not have occasioned Dr. Jamieson much trouble to conjecture, as he did, that "Mirry-land toun" was a corruption of "Merry-Lincolne." In fact, in 1783, Pinkerton commenced his version of the ballad thus:—

The bonnie boys o' Merry Lincolne.

With all his haste and petulance, Pinkerton's critical acumen was far from inconsiderable.

To the several versions of Percy, Pinkerton and Jamieson, we have now added the version of Dr. Hume, which he tells us was thus acquired:—

"During several years past, one occupation of my leisure hours has been the collection and arrange-

ment of the best specimens of Irish Ballad Poetry, with a view to their publication at some convenient period in the future. The simple pathos of one in particular made a deep impression upon me when first heard in early boyhood; it was afterwards readily identified with Sir Hugh of Lincoln, though the rustic minstrel from whom I received it made no allusion to locality. In examining the origin of the tradition, various slight notices were found in connexion with edited versions of this ballad."

Dr. Hume, having, as he says, made himself acquainted with the "slight notices" prefixed to the edited copies of this ballad, proceeds to state as follows:—

"In the month of July 1848, I had the pleasure to attend the Annual Congress of the British Archaeological Institute at Lincoln; and I was somewhat surprised that among the many papers read, all having a reference, direct or indirect, to the county or the city, there was not one referring either to the tradition or the ballad of 'Bonnie Sir Hew.' On my return, I arranged and extended my own memoranda, so as to form a sort of supplementary paper to those read on Lincoln localities; and to make the reminiscence more interesting, I did so on the recorded anniversary of the event, the 27th of August."

It would be curious to learn how the author found out that the 27th of August was the recorded anniversary of the supposed murder of Hugh:—but let that pass for the present.

It might be supposed, on reading all this parade of research into the history of the legend of Hugh of Lincoln, that Dr. Hume's brochure would contain something new on the subject:—but such is not the case. There are absolutely no novelties whatever in the Doctor's composition, except the blunders with which it abounds. It is incumbent on us to exemplify a few of these errors. Dr. Hume fancifully throws his collections into the form of a trial at law:—in which the "Christian people of past ages, with some Mahometans and Christians of the present day, appear as the plaintiffs,—the Jewish people of past and present times as the defendants." He sets out the popular indictment,—which is simply the popular tradition. With its general character our readers are familiar. The defendants, he informs us, plead "Not guilty,"—and challenge the production of legitimate evidence. The author then observes:—

"Instead of occupying the time of the Court by examining all the witnesses who have been known to speak of the matter, we shall call a few of the principal only, and rest the case entirely on their evidence. The first is the ancient historian or chronicler Matthew Paris, whose account is given at second-hand by many writers, with or without additional and collateral circumstances from other sources."

It has pleased the Doctor, then, to call the Monk of St. Alban's,—and it is a singular coincidence that it pleased Dr. Jamieson to do the same thing. It is still more singular that Dr. Hume's transcript of Matthew's text, though it professes to be copied from the edition of Wats, published in 1640, p. 912, contains errors and omissions which do not occur in the text of that edition, but which are found in the printed transcript of Jamieson. Can it be possible that, notwithstanding all his research, Dr. Hume contented himself by reprinting Jamieson's quotation, without collating it with the original? Such would appear to be the case. We subjoin portions of the several texts,—that the reader may be able to judge for himself.—

MATTHEW PARIS, ed. Wats, 1640.

"Mater autem pueri, filium suum absentem per aliquot dies diligenter quesivit, dictumque ei a vicinis, quod ultimo viderunt puerum quem quesivit ludentem cum pueris Judæorum sibi conatensis, et domum Judæi ejusdum intrantem.—Et capto uno Judæo, in ejus

JAMIESON and HUME.

"Mater autem pueri filium suum absentem per aliquot dies quesivit, dictumque ei a vicinis, quod ultimo viderunt puerum quem quesivit ludentem cum pueris Judæorum conatensis, et domum Judæi ejusdum intrantem.—Et capto uno Judæo, in ejusdum domum, scilicet intravit

puer ludens, et ideo aliis suspectior, ita ille, &c.—Judæus igitur ille, nomine Copius, * * * respondit dicens: 'Dominus Johannes, si dictis facta compensas, pandam tibi mirabilia.' Et animavit eum et stimulavit ad hoc domini Joannis industria, &c.

It will be seen that the words and letters marked in *italics* in the text of Paris do not occur in the transcripts either of Jamieson or of Hume:—the inference is, as we have said, that the latter gentleman must have read through the former's spectacles, or printed from his pages. This comparison we might have extended to the whole passage,—to the multiplication of errors and omissions. It is true that Dr. Hume has added the concluding paragraph of the Monk's narrative,—which the Scottish editor did not print; and he is particular enough to quote the rubrics of both. Yet he has contrived to drop a word in the last of them; reading "Judæi tracti," &c. for "Octodecim Judæi." So much for Dr. Hume's Latin text of the legend of Hugh of Lincoln.

The caution of Dr. Jamieson induced him to refrain from giving a translation of the narrative of Matthew Paris,—"from a fear of incurring the imputation of having swelled out my pages with unnecessary repetitions, in order to make a book." No such scruples beset Dr. Hume.

Tentavit quoque, rem si digne vertere posset:
Et placuit sibi, natura sublimis et acor.

How he has succeeded, let a few specimens culled from his English version, in juxtaposition with the original, show.—

M. PARIS.	HUME.
Miserunt ad omnes fore Anglie civitates—	They sent to almost all the states of England—
Et capto uno Judæo,—	And as one Jew has been taken,—
Sed non quolibet anno compertur. Occultis enim hoc faciunt—	But they are unable to procure one every year, and they practise this secretly—
Et cum ab infinitis satis consideraretur (i. e. the dead body)—	And when they had consulted together for some time—
Et cum hoc discisset, simul cum aliis deliramentis, ligatus ad caudam equinam, et tractus ad patibulum, aeris cacodemonibus in corpore et anima presentatur. Et alii Judæi—	And when he had thus spoken, he was bound to the tail of a horse, and taken to the rack; and the other Jews, &c.

No wonder that the same mild authority who softens *gibbet* into *rack*, should take fright at the "aërial cacodemons" mentioned in the last passage,—and so omit them altogether from his translation!

After Robert of Gloucester, the next witness called by Dr. Hume is the poet Chaucer: of whom we are told that he "flourished during the reign of Edward III.," only,—his life being thus curtailed of its fair proportions. He, it appears, "mentions a similar case in Asia;" and, "as might be expected, Chaucer's account is the most minute and prolix, and is in general corroborative of that given in the popular ballad." "Mentions!" and "prolix!" Surely these are curious terms to apply in reference to the 'Prioress's Tale'! Had Dr. Hume been only a little more "minute and prolix" himself, he might have begun his sentence thus:—"The late Mr. Chaucer, who filled a respectable station in the Customs department during the reign of Edward III., mentions," &c. He reminds us of the chapter-clerk of a college of canons not far from Charing Cross, who stated, in reply to the queries of certain bibliomaniacs, that a tablet to the memory of "the late William Caxton," (as if the old printer were a person recently deceased) might be erected on certain conditions by him named. The curious reader may find the anecdote by referring back to that treasury of mirth and dainty devices, the Report of the Roxburghe Revels,—which appeared in the early numbers of our paper for the year 1834.

The other authorities cited by Dr. Hume for his plaintiffs (the word should be, prosecutors) are, the *Chronicles of Grafton, Fabyan, and Holinshed*:—the last being, he informs his readers, "comparatively modern." In truth, all these writers were simple copyists of more ancient scribes,—and they collectively add no new details to the account of Matthew Paris. The counsel for the defence—to speak in the language of the author—"does not think it necessary to produce any witnesses on behalf of his clients." The judge sums up, in a style which is anything but lucid; and the verdict is given in the words of Bishop Percy:—"We may reasonably conclude the whole charge to be groundless and malicious." Such are the sum and substance of the materials which Dr. Hume has collected illustrative of the legend of Hugh of Lincoln. But he states, that while the earliest portion of his essay was passing through the press, a copy of the Anglo-Norman version of the ballad reached him by accident. This was first published by M. Francisque Michel, in 1834, under the title of '*Hugues de Lincoln*.' Dr. Hume has reprinted it, and translated it also—much after the fashion in which he has translated Matthew Paris. At the same time he observes, "I have not seen M. Michel's monograph, nor had the benefit of his annotations: I take the text from the last of Mr. Halliwell's privately printed tracts." We must say that this Anglo-French poem (not Anglo-Norman) has been very ill-treated by Dr. Hume,—who has divided it into "fyttes," which might throw an archæologist into fits of laughter. These "fyttes" are melodramatically headed: as 1. The child is stolen; 2. Appeal to the king; 3. The crucifixion,—and so on. The Doctor thinks that pauses in the song were absolutely necessary to give repose to the "prudent minstrel," who, while the audience were discussing his performance, "buried his face in the peg tankard, and 'moistened his clay' with a draught of nut-brown October:"—after which, "drawing a long breath," he resumed his tale. Such may have been the "prudent minstrel's" course of action for aught we know. But considering how much special information Dr. Hume seems to have, we must say his English version of this French ditty is an unaccountable performance. It is true, the author calls it an "imitation" rather than a translation, though it will probably be found to give the spirit of the original with sufficient accuracy. In a few instances, the meaning of particular words could not be accurately ascertained, even with the assistance of a literary French gentleman. The instances are very numerous indeed in which the Doctor and his literary French friend have wholly failed to understand even the spirit of the original, much more the words. We must give our readers a few examples of this "imitation."—

ANGLO-FRENCH.	HUME.
Ore oez un bel chançon	You shall hear a good song,
Des Jues de Nichole, qui par	if you listen to mee,
treison,	Of the Jewes of Lincoln who
Firent la cruel occision	treacherously
De un enfant que Huchon	Did plot and practise their
ont non.	villanie,
	And slew the child Hugo,
	upon a tre.

Literal translation.—"Now hear a fine song of the Jews of Lincoln, who treacherously committed the cruel murder of a child, who had the name of Hugh."

2. En Nichole, la riche cité,	In the citie of Lincoln, riche
Dreit en Dernelstal, l'en-	and gay,
fant fu né;	He was born in the Dernelstal,
De Peitevin le Ju fu	all men say;
emble	Now Peitevin the Jewe hath
A la gule de aust, en un	stolen away
vespre.	This innocent babe, at the
	close of the day.

Lit. Trans. "In Lincoln, the rich city, right in Dernelstal, the infant was born; by Peitevin the Jew he was stolen one evening, at the gule of August."

The date of the event, which is of some importance, was omitted by Dr. Hume—perhaps because he did not understand it.

50. Ele se est mult tost pur-	In her surprise she nothing
pensé	thought
De la fame d'un enfant	Of the child that was loste
emble;	and vainly sought;
Denz Nichole se est alé	Yet from the Dernelstal this
A Dernelstal, à l'enfant fu	had been brought
né.	In Lincoln town, to this very
	spot.

Lit. Trans. "She very soon bethought herself of the report of a child having been stolen; into Lincoln she went, to Dernelstal, where the child was born."

If "imitation" be synonymous with "travesty," it must be admitted that the translator has shown much skill in rendering the last verse. We might examine in this way each stanza of the ballad,—and prove conclusively that almost every other word of the French text has been *guessed* at rather than understood, by the Doctor and his "literary" friend from the other side of the Channel. But the foregoing specimens will suffice to show the general character and value of Dr. Hume's translation.

We have not space for exposing all the errors of fact and statement scattered throughout the author's disquisition:—but one or two we must notice. He gravely informs us that "St. Hugh, an ancient bishop, to whom the *Cathedral was dedicated*, is sometimes confounded with the child." We fear Dr. Hume derived little information respecting the Cathedral from his visit to Lincoln:—had he taken the trouble to inquire of any little boy in that city he would have found that the cathedral is dedicated to St. Mary. He might have learnt, too, that it was consecrated more than a century before the death of Bishop Hugh. As the king mentioned in the ballad is named Henry, the author observes that in order to bring it within the reign of Henry the Third it must have been written before 1277:—most people would think it necessary to carry the date of its composition a little farther back, and place it before 1272, in which year Henry died.

We have now done with Dr. Hume and his blunders. As to the version of the Ballad which he calls his own, it is mere doggerel of a late, very late cast; though in a note to the last verse he is pleased to assume that it is not older than the sixteenth century. The first and last stanzas are subjoined, that the reader may form his own judgment.—

Twas on a summer's morning,
Some scholars were playing at ball;
When out came the Jew's daughter
And lean'd her back against the wall.

Lay my Bible at my head,
My Testament at my feet;
The earth and worms shall be my bed,
Till Christ and I shall meet.

Those who may desire to know more of this composition will probably refer to the author's work.

It has been already observed that Matthew Paris gives the most detailed account of the supposed crucifixion of Hugh by the Jews of Lincoln. If we are to place any confidence in his narrative, and in contemporary legal records, a child was murdered in that city at the close of the year 1255; but it depends on the month in which the deed was perpetrated whether it occurred in the thirty-ninth or fortieth regnal year of Henry the Third. We do not contend that the boy was not murdered by a Jew;—individual members of that persuasion, as of all others, have in every age committed crimes. But that the community of Jews nourished the child for ten days on milk, in the meanwhile tormenting and at last crucifying it, we hold to be a merely fabulous statement. It may be easily understood that such was the vulgar report at the time,—and as easily ad-

mitted that the Crown took advantage of the popular fanaticism of the moment to deprive many of the Jews of Lincoln of their wealth, and not a few of their lives. The question, however, is too puerile to call for much discussion. We will examine the narrative of Matthew Paris,—testing it at the same time by those legal evidences of the occurrence which have been handed down to our own times.

Paris begins by stating that in the year 1255, about the time of the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, the Jews of Lincoln stole a child named Hugh, eight years old. The Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul was then celebrated, as it still is in the Roman Church, on the 29th of June:—adding the ten days during which the infant was kept secreted before his alleged crucifixion, we get the date of his death as falling on the 9th of July. These dates do not agree with that given in the Anglo-French ballad; which was evidently written in England—in all likelihood at Lincoln,—and is plainly a contemporary work. There, the event is fixed in the "gule of August,"—a singular expression for the first day, or "throat," of that month. It is not improbable that the first week may have been called by the same name. Further, Henry the Third is described by Paris as being in the northern parts of England when the crime was discovered:—and we have already noticed his journey to Scotland. It is easy to trace with certainty his movements during the summer and autumn of 1255:—but a few dates will serve our present purpose. On the 27th of July he was at Nottingham. At that time, so far as the records of his reign afford evidence, the crime had not been committed: therefore, the date given by Matthew Paris is clearly wrong,—and the ballad writer furnishes a more correct indication of the time of its occurrence. On the 27th of September Henry was at Wark Castle, in Northumberland:—he returned to London before the 17th of October. It was, then, during the period between the first of August and the beginning of October that the Jews of Lincoln were arraigned on this charge. It is a remarkable fact, however, that the Royal Commission to enquire into the facts of the case was not issued until the 27th of March, 1256. Still, amidst these conflicting dates, one thing is certain,—that the murder, by whomsoever done, took place before the 28th of October, 1255: as the escheated houses of the Lincoln Jews who suffered for the crime are described as having fallen to the Crown in the 39th regnal year of Henry,—which ended on the 27th of October. So that the wretched Jews were first punished and then tried.

The Jew *Copin*, who figures as informer in the relation of Matthew Paris, is evidently the *Jopin* of the French ballad. *Copin* was at the time a common name among the Israelites dwelling in England. The energetic and credulous Sir John of Lexington, or Lessington, who received his evidence, was a priest of the cathedral,—and probably a relation of William de Lessington, Precentor of Lincoln, who was elected to the deanery in 1263. These are the only names given by Paris. But his story is helped out by the ballad; which tells us that the child was stolen by Peitevin the Jew—a person who was actually resident in Lincoln at the time. He was called Peitevin the Great, to distinguish him from another person who bore the appellation of Peitevin the Little. The Royal Commission issued in 1256 directs an inquisition to be taken of the names of all those who belonged to the school [or synagogue] of "Peytevin Magnus,"—who had fled on account of his implication in the crucifixion of a Christian

boy: that being, as appears from other records, Hugh the Martyr.

The Jewry of Lincoln was situated on the hill and about the castle:—the land and houses of Aaron the Rich were in the parish of St. Michael on the Mount. It is probable that Demestral, mentioned in the French ballad as the place of the child's birth, was—as its Saxon origin implies—a back or sequestered street.

The inquisition taken at Lincoln, by the Royal Commissioners, respecting the congregation of Peytevin the Great, does not appear to be preserved among the public records:—but we know the substance of it from Matthew Paris and from other sources. The Jews were declared guilty. Eighteen were hanged at London, out of ninety-one or ninety-two who had been arrested and brought to the metropolis before the commission issued; that is to say, on the 22nd or 23rd of November 1255,—the precept for the inquisition not being sealed till the 27th of March in the following year, as we have already noted. Paris relates that thirty-five of the remaining prisoners, who were confined in the Tower, bribed the Friars Minors, who possessed great power over Henry,—and were released by their intercession. One of them, John the Convert, was certainly pardoned at the prayer of Brother John of Darlington; and the King granted the life of another to the solicitations of Sir Garcias Martinez, a Spanish nobleman, who had come to England with the Infante Don Sancho, Archbishop elect of Toledo, as ambassador from Alphonso of Castile. Of the fate of the rest we have no record: excepting that Aaron, one of the sons of Peytevin, died in prison,—and that Hacce, another, was outlawed.

Hugh of Lincoln was the second of the infant martyrs of England. According to tradition, a child named William had suffered the same death at Norwich in the reign of Stephen;—but the fame of Hugh long eclipsed that of his predecessor. A construction called his tomb is still shown in Lincoln Cathedral,—though it is very evident that it never was a tomb. In 1791 the remains of a child being found near this spot, they were at once assumed to be those of the martyr; and drawings of the relics were made by Grimm, which may be seen among the works of that artist in the British Museum.

Although the various editors of the Ballad of Sir Hugh of Lincoln have taken some pains to refer to like instances of Jewish cruelty which occurred in foreign countries,—the legend of St. Simon of Trent appears to have escaped their united researches. According to report, St. Simon was tortured to death, but not crucified, by the Jews of Trent, in 1475. This legend bears a general resemblance to that of Sir Hugh; except that the body was discovered in a running stream, not in or by a well. His remains of course worked miracles. One hair of his head and some fragments of his dress were taken to Venice; where they were long preserved, in the Church of S. Maria Servorum, in a brass-gilt reliquary, decorated with enamels showing the manner of the infant's death and the punishment of his murderers.

Fisher's Drawing-Room Scrap-Book. 1850. By Charles Mackay, L.L.D.—*The Juvenile Scrap-Book; A Gage d'Amour for the Young.* Edited by Mrs. Milner. 1850. Jackson.

This pretty volume bids fair to be the last survivor of the Annuals:—change of editorship in its case not implying “enfeeblement of the stamina of vitality.” We are spared the necessity of characterizing the illustrations by the condition of the publication—which is a re-publication of

engravings that have appeared on former occasions. The verse had best speak for itself. The following rhymes, accompanying a scene from ‘Gil Blas,’ are not of Mr. Mackay's best quality; but as containing a cheerful catalogue of our benefactors, they will be welcome at Christmas firesides.—

The Story-Tellers.

All blessings on their name and fame,
The pleasant Story-tellers,
The benefactors of the world,
Care-soothers—sorrow-quellers.

Blessings upon them each and all,
From sweet Scheherazade—
(The best of story-tellers set,
And model of a lady:—)

To modern times when other dames,
As tender and loquacious,
Pour forth three volumes at a time,
Romantic and vivacious.

Blessings upon them! whatso'er
Their language or their nation,
Who people earth with deathless forms
Of beautiful creation:—

On old Boccaccio, gay as youth—
On Chaucer, fresh as morning,
On heavenly Shakespeare, friend of man,
Humanity adorning:—

On stanch Defoe, whose fruits were sweet,
Though somewhat stubborn-rinded:—
On honest Bunyan, firm of faith,
Sublime, but simple-minded:—

On Swift, from out whose bitterness
There came a sweetness after:—
On Sterne, the master of our tears,
The ruler of our laughter:—

On Fielding, from whose wondrous pen
Came forth a stream incessant
Of wit and mirth, and feeling too,
And genial fancies pleasant:—

On Smollett, Goldsmith, Richardson:—
And Rattcliffe, ruin-hauntress,
Dear to our hearts for youthful dreams,
A sweet, but sad enchantress:—

On Walter Scott, great Potentate,
Who ruled o'er wide dominions,
As wide as fancy e'er surveyed,
On her supporting pilions:—

On Dickens, monarch of our hearts—
The Wizard's fit successor:—
And on all Story-tellers true—
The greater and the lesser:—

On all who've spurr'd through Fairyland
Their flying Rosinantes:—
On Rabelais, Voltaire, Rousseau,
Lesage, and quaint Cervantes.

But if my voice might claim for one
A special benediction,
I'd pour it on Lesage's head,
For his immortal fiction.

The roguish boy of Santillane—
Who has not read his story?
Who has not revel'd o'er his faults,
His trials, and his glory?

Who has not learn'd in youth or age
Some wisdom from his preaching,
Some gem of truth he might have scorn'd
From more obtrusive teaching?

But blessings on them, each and all,
I make no reservation;
If in their page they love mankind,
And seek its elevation:—

If evermore, both right and wrong
They bring to due fruition,
And show that knavery in the end
Must work its own perdition:—

If evermore their words console
The virtuous in dejection,
And if their laughter like their tears
Teach goodness and affection:—

My choicest blessings on their heads—
Care-soothers—sorrow-quellers—
Creators of a magic world—
Immortal Story-tellers.

For those who prefer a tone of “musing melancholy” we will take a few stanzas from a poem to a lady in a masquerade dress, by the author of ‘The Patrician's Daughter.’—

Well, sweet maid! that in the morning
Thou canst doff the night's adorning,
And all charms, but borrow'd, thrown
From thee—greet us in thine own.—

Ah! be all the masks that hide
The true heart and open brow
Cast as easily aside
As the robes that deck thee now,
Sportive fancy's maiden lure
Lightly garmenting thy youth;
While, beneath, unstrain'd endure
All its innocence and truth.

Never be thy happy smile
The disguise of secret guile;
Never worn to hide a woe,
Like the light on an abyss,
Which when all is death below,
Mocking, woos the sunbeam's kiss!—
Save that woe should pain the ken
Of the hearts that love thee well:—
The disguise is hollow'd then
That makes grief invisible!
There are masks which all must wear—
Masks which screen the soul sincere.
Such, when the heart's depths are stirr'd,
Are the signs that should reveal them,—
Though each struggling glance and word
Prove that we can only feel them!

Inner Life of strong desiring,
Fond devotion, rapt aspiring,—
Oh, how little men may guess thee,
By our yearnings to express thee!
We are fain thy truths to teach
By our sighing,—not our speech,
Prisoning an angelic guest,
In a frail and mortal breast.
We are thralls to Fate and Change;
Death can sever, Time estrange;
And the current of our tears
Glides beneath the frost of years,
While the deepest springs below
Are the last the world can know!

With the exception of this poem by Mr. Marston,—one which illustrates Mr. J. E. Herbert's ‘Brides of Venice,’ by Mr. Heraud,—and a slight Sketch called ‘The Prado,’ which bears the lamented name of Lady Blessington,—the rest of the letter-press would seem to be wholly the work of Dr. Mackay's own hand: and if no one of the poems here can be said singly to be equal to the best of those which he has done elsewhere, the great variety of subject over which they range, added to the fact that in every case the plate prescribes the subject—not the author's free-will—furnishes perhaps a larger attestation of his poetical power than any that he has before put forth.

We are sorry not to be able to extend our commendations of the contents of ‘The Drawing-Room Scrap-Book to the letter-press contained in this school-room or nursery miscellany:—of which, however, the illustrations are good, and the binding is gay. It is true that Mrs. Milner, the editress for 1850, prefaces her Annual with goodly sayings about the “responsibility she assumes,”—and “the spirit of Christianity,” &c. Nevertheless as a piece of literary manufacture her confection is very slovenly. The manner in which some of the plates to be illustrated are dragged neck and heels into stories which they are not made to fit, reminds us of nothing so much as Miss Paton's devices to sing on the stage ‘O, no, we never mention her’ in cornfields or rocky valleys to which her harp was brought by a liveried myrmidon. Some of the contributions are ultra-romantic, some weakly silly:—none, in short, suit our ideas of what it is wise and wholesome to administer to young persons. But for the preface from the pulpit, however, we might have let these nothings pass unimproved.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Ernest Vane. By Alexander Baillie Cochrane M.P.—This novel has been published some little time,—and is recommended to the world by accompanying commendations of ‘Lucille Belmont,’ a former fiction by the same author. It seems now to be turned over to ordinary critics in the hope that those meek gentlemen may fall in with the chorus of the coteries which have pronounced that ‘Lucille’ and this ‘Ernest’ to be something extraordinary. For our own poor parts, we are acquiescent. There are extraordinary things in ‘Ernest Vane.’ First, there is the Liverpool Merchant, Mr. Leslie; whose “ways and means,” forms of speech and modes of action, have as much of Leghorn or Latakia as of Liverpool in them,—and of Lacedemon as either.—Luttrell, the Lovelace of the novel, is not extraordinary: being merely a sort of *otio* of all the wicked men of fashion who have appeared betwixt the reigns of ‘Pelham’ and ‘Cecil.’ But Marie, “the daughter of a Tyrolean gentleman,” though her history be of the commonest

quality, is herself a lady rare in the Tyrol:—given to picking wild flowers, to wearing a kirtle and hood, and as much like one of the ill-used damels born and bred in May Fair as one daisy can be like another. Further, mixed up with a grandeur of descriptive style which *Rosa Matilda* hardly ever excelled in her most ebullient and sentimental mood, are certain startling colloquial familiarities, which, in our innocent hearts, we had till now apportioned to the *Jeannettes* and *Jeannettes* of the second table:—little dreaming that such parlance was current among “the shining circles” where our novelist “takes his walks abroad.” For instance, a great lady informs her most intimate friend that the latter is as “white as the table-cloth:” and again, Luttrell, the lovely and enticing, while sitting at a party over “the ruby bottle” in one of the St. James’s Street clubs, begs Wingrove and other dear fellows “not to chaff him so much.” We should have characterized this as the liveliness of “high life below stairs” had we met with it under less authentic auspices than those of Mr. Baillie Cochrane. Briefly and seriously,—his tale is of the trashiest possible quality, and Mr. Newby publishes a dozen better ones of the same kind every year.

The Drama of Life; being a Series of Scenes, Fearful and Painful, woven into a Book for the Christmas Fireside.—The Drama has many forms: her robes of Windsor royalty, to be emblazoned in a golden book, by Mr. Mitchell—her rags of Duck Lane disrespectability, over which magistrates on sanitary cares intent naturally keep a watchful eye. This series of scenes savours more of the penny theatre than of the Rubens’ Chamber:—and therefore may be briefly dismissed.

Observations on the Weather. By John Toplis, B.D.—This is a well written little work upon a subject of general interest. We cannot discover any evidences of either original researches or original observations; without which the power of “foreseeing the future contingencies of the seasons” will remain as remote as it ever has been. Our author says:—“We are as unable to predict the changes of the atmosphere beyond two or three days at this present period as the philosophers of Greece were two thousand two hundred years since, when Aristotle composed the first treatise upon meteorology.” Nothing can be more true than this; and it will remain true so long as men of leisure shall be content to gather up superficial facts, instead of attentively examining the truths which lie buried a little deeper below the surface. Notwithstanding this, the book—which is a compilation made with much care, after attentive and extensive reading—will place a large amount of really useful and interesting information before those who have not the leisure nor the opportunity for obtaining it from any other source. These “observations” will serve to diffuse knowledge of a very important character,—but they will not add a single truth to the stores which science has already gathered. It is only by increasing those stores that we can hope ever to arrive at the laws which determine atmospheric changes.

Principles of the Human Mind deduced from Physical Causes; being a Sequel to ‘Elements of Electro-Biology.’ By A. Snee, F.R.S.—We have so recently given our opinion on the ‘Elements of Electro-Biology’ [ante, p. 434] that it is unnecessary for us to return to the subject:—particularly as this ‘Sequel’ only confirms the views which we expressed in our previous notice.

The Mineral Productions of South Wales. A Speech delivered at Swansea, at the Annual Meeting of the Royal British Association for the Advancement of Science, held in that Town, on the 11th of August, 1848. By Thomas William Booker, Esq.—A speech printed, with numerous appendices, at the request of the Association. The matter now added contains much curious and important information on the statistics of the mineral basin of South Wales.

Addresses on Miscellaneous Subjects. By the Rev. James S. M. Anderson, M. A.—This book consists of a reprint of five addresses:—1. On the profitable employment of hours gained from business.—2. Dr. Johnson.—3. Columbus.—4. Sir Walter Raleigh.—5. England and her Colonies. They are both in substance and manner in the usual style of popular preachings,—if anything perhaps a shade superior in the tone, spirit, and scholarship.

A First Book of Geography, with an Outline of the Geography of Palestine.—An abridgment, for the use of the lowest Forms in schools, of Dr. Reid’s ‘*Rudiments of Modern Geography*’; with a few alterations in the arrangement, adapting it to the wants and capacities of younger children than the original was intended for the use of.

An Account of the Settlement of New Plymouth, in New Zealand, from Personal Observation during a Residence there of Five Years. By Charles Hursthouse, Jun. With a Plan and Views.—A welcome addition to our still very imperfect Colonial Library. New Plymouth is a settlement of which very little is popularly known in England. A colony is, generally speaking, one of the quarters from which the best news is—no news! It has been so with New Plymouth in a great degree; hence it is but seldom noticed in newspapers; hence again it is less known to that section of the public from which the emigrant class mostly springs, than its merits as a field of colonial enterprise entitle it to. It was founded in 1841—and has pursued, on the whole, a prosperous course up to the present time. The locality is convenient; by sea it is only 180 miles from Wellington, 150 from Nelson, and 120 from the harbour of Manukia, whence a good road of 6 miles leads to Auckland, the English capital of the island. The soil is highly productive, the climate—though not equal to the glowing account of the earlier voyagers—one of the most salubrious in that part of the world. These advantages, it would appear, have not been lost upon the settlers, though much remains to be done to give New Plymouth a good healthy character. One of the most prominent wants which Mr. Hursthouse describes the colony as labouring under—and for lack of which commerce languishes and mind stagnates—is a newspaper! This may seem surprising where a considerable body of Englishmen are located—for it was the habit of our earlier emigrants never to leave their native soil without carrying with them the means “of unlimited printing.” Their New England descendants still retain the habit: a habit to qualify and redeem many small social vices; but we fear it is a fashion which we, on this side of the Atlantic, are sadly forgetting. Beyond the want of a newspaper, New Plymouth stands most in need of a fresh supply of labour from England, and an improvement of the roadstead. Since Mr. Hursthouse’s book was written, steps have been taken by the Home Government to effect the latter object—and the work before us may possibly induce some parties of our labouring population to betake themselves to better markets, and for the poor a more benignant climate.

Lectures on Electricity and Galvanism in their Physiological and Therapeutical Relations. By Golding Bird, M.D.—The observations of a physician who has written so well on Natural Philosophy as Dr. Bird are necessarily valuable. These Lectures were delivered at the Royal College of Physicians; it may therefore be thought that they deal with technical points which are uninteresting to all who are not connected with the medical profession. This is not, however, the case; and we may refer to this book as an instance of the advantages to be derived from plain and familiar descriptions of scientific facts. Matters which would be rendered uninteresting by many scientific men, from the mistaken idea that a certain conventional style is necessary for all questions of science, will be found to lose none of their value under our author’s more popular treatment,—and they may be understood by any intelligent reader. We refer unwillingly to some of the small blemishes which we have discovered. We wish the author had not stated so positively as he has that the existence of an *etherial* medium in space has been proved “beyond all doubt or question from the evidence of its retarding influence” on cometary matter. The evidence which astronomical observations have afforded is very slight, and the retardation may be due to many other causes. Again, in speaking of Dr. Phillips’s researches on the influence of electricity as an agent in exciting the functions of digestion, we do not think that a fair examination of the more recent researches on the same subject has been given. Indeed, on some other occasions we detect a suppression of such evidence as is opposed to the views of the author.—The analytical examination of the chemical and nervous theories of the origin of animal heat is an example

of careful ratiocination which we could have wished to have found extended to the other unsettled questions discussed by the writer. That portion of the work which details the therapeutical applications of electricity and galvanism appears highly important.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Alisworth’s Works, Vol. II. “*Rockwood*,” 12mo. 1s. 6ds.
Arnold’s (T. K.) Selections from Cicero, Part II. 12mo. 5s. cl.
Architect, Builder, and Contractor’s Pocket-Book for 1850, 12mo. 4s.
Atlas to Part I. and II. Elementary Treatise on Stone Cutting, 12. 1s.
Babes in the Wood, 10 drawings by Marchioness of Waterford, 12. 1s.
Barrington’s (Hon. and Rev. L.) The Child’s Piouser, 10mo. 2s. cl.
Barbauld’s (Mrs.) Hymns in Prose for Children, new ed. 12mo. 1s.
Bennett’s (Rev. W. J. E.) Letters to my Children, Vol. II. 7s. 6d. cl.
Bedford’s (Hon. B.) British and Irish Ecclesiastical History, 2 vols. 8s. 12mo.
Bishop’s (D.) Introduction to the Study of the Mind, post 8vo. 3s. 6d.
Bonycastle’s Key to Introduction to Algebra, new ed. 12mo. 4s. 6d.
Boutelle’s (C.) Monumental Brasen of England, new ed. royal 8vo. 2s. 6d.
Burnet’s (J.) Practical Hints on Portrait Painting, 4to. 12. 1s. cl.
Book of Ruth Illustrated, by Lady Augusta Cadogan, 12s. 12. 2s. cl.
Cumming’s Apocalyptic Sketches, 3d ser. On the Seven Churches, 12s.
Campbell’s (Lord) Lives of the Lord Chief Justices, 8vo. 12s. 12mo.
Christmas Shadow, a Tale of the Times, 1 vol. 6s. cl.
Chambers’s Juvenile Library, Vol. XII. “*Fireside Amusements*,” 1s.
Columbus’s Life and Voyages, by W. Irving, new ed. 4 vols. 12. 1s. 6d.
Child’s (Rev. C. F.) Good out of Evil, or the History of Adam, 2s. 6d.
Dana’s Geology of the United States’ Exploring Expedition, 4s. 12. 1s. cl.
Drama of Life (The), 12. 1s. 6d.
Faces in the Fire, a Story for the Season, illustrated, 6s. 1s. cl.
Fruits from Garden and Field, printed in colours by Owen Jones, 12mo.
Glover’s General and Elementary Physical Atlas, 8vo. 1s. 6d. and 4s.
Hawkes’s (Mrs.) Memoir, by Catherine Crell, 4th ed. 8vo. 7s. 6d.
Harry’s Ladder to Learning, Country Walk, 4s. 6d. and 4s.
Hacks’s Winter Evenings, 16th ed. 12mo. 6s. cl.
Heirens (by) Ministry by Author of “*Bert J. J.*,” 2 vols. 8s.
King’s Cope, a Novel, by Author of “*Mr. Warren*,” 3 vols. 12. 1s. 6d.
Miall’s (E.) British Churches in relation to British People, 10s. 6d. cl.
The Little Foundling, illustrated, 2s. 6d. cl.
Neuman and Barrett’s Pocket Spanish and English Dictionary, 8s.
Peer’s Daughter (The), by Lady Bulwer Lytton, 3 vols. 12. 1s. 6d. 8vo.
Simond’s French, Vol. I. royal 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
Sibert’s (Dr. H.) Short Readings for Long Reflection, 15mo. 1s. 6d.
Seymour’s (Rev. M. H.) Pilgrimage to Rome, 3rd ed. 12mo. 8s. 6d. cl.
Soyers’s Modern Housewife, 5th thousand, post 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Visit to my History of the Aeneid, 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl.
Tracts for Parochial Use, specimen packets, 2s. 6d. each.
Universal History on Scripture Principles, Vol. V. 6s. 6d. cl.
Visit to my History of the Aeneid, 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl.
Westwood’s (J. O.) Illuminated Illustrations of the Bible, 1s. 6d. cl.
Wilberforce’s (Rev. J.) The Doctrine of Holy Baptism, 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Wylie’s (Rev. J. A.) Scenes from the Bible, illustrated ed. 8s. 7s. 6d.

FOLK-LORE.

Parsley goes nine times to the Devil.

I do not recollect to have met with the above saying in any of your papers on Folk-Lore. I first heard it used by an old man whom I employ in my garden, in explanation of the trouble I had had in establishing a parsley-bed,—and since then I find it is a common saying in Oxfordshire. My gardener tells me, with all apparent faith, that it arose from the following circumstance.—

During a certain season, many years back, garden produce of all kinds was extremely scarce; but parsley was more so than any other vegetable,—and consequently cultivators of the earth, in sending their tithe of its produce to the priest, omitted the usual portion of parsley. This so angered that dignity that he exclaimed, in a fit of rage,—“Do you grudge one-tenth of parsley to the Church? Henceforth nine-tenths shall go to the Devil.” R. W. H.

DEVONSHIRE SUPERSTITIONS.

I.—Passing through an Ash-tree.

Having read the various articles on Folk-Lore which have appeared from time to time in the *Athenæum*, I do not remember to have seen any notice of the following singular superstition in Devonshire. I had a little brother who was a delicate child; and after many attempts on the part of the doctors to restore him to health and strength, my mother was prevailed on by the nurse and certain old folks to have recourse to a plan for his recovery which it was confidently asserted had never failed in curing similar weakness. At a place called Boldventure, near Plymouth, (celebrated in my memory for junkies), a young tree was to be split from the top down to about the height of a person, and laid sufficiently open to pass the child through. I was very young at the time; but I have a vivid remembrance of being permitted to accompany the party (after much teasing and coaxing on my part), at three o’clock in the morning and before the sun rose, to witness this interesting ceremony. About one point I am not quite certain,—but I believe the poor little fellow had his clothes removed. He was then passed through the tree by an old woman and received on the other side by some person. This was done three times, and on three consecutive mornings: the tree was then carefully bound together,—and I can well remember for many years viewing it with great interest. My brother has grown to manhood,—but whether that fact is due to his

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having paid these early morning visits to Boldventure, I leave to the learned to decide.

II.—Charm for Warts.

One charm for warts has not been mentioned in the *Athenæum*. "Steal a piece of meat, rub your wart, bury the stolen morsel, and when it is rotten your wart will be gone." I am half ashamed to confess my experiences—but I did once steal a piece of meat from our butcher's, and followed the rest of the prescription very faithfully, with the most happy results. My wart went away in time—it was a long time, but perhaps the meat took a long time to become "rotten." Until I was quite a tall girl, whenever my foot went to sleep I invariably wetted my finger and crossed the front of my shoe.—People living in cities have very little idea of the impossibility of preventing young children in Devonshire (and probably it is the same elsewhere) from hearing and being influenced by a thousand superstitions. The servants have a charm for everything.

III.—The Piskies.

I was born and brought up in Devonshire: need I say then that I had a firm faith in Piskies—or as we call them in our county Piskies? Never did any race exercise a more beneficial effect than do these tiny folks in producing neatness amongst the cottagers. "If the kitchen be left in an untidy state at night the Piskies will come in." My father tells a story of a farmer being late in returning from market; he rode on, and rode on, and yet never came to the end of his journey. At last it occurred to him that he must be "Pisky-led." He instantly dismounted, and turned his stockings. No sooner was this done than he found himself at his own gate.—Now, who can doubt the efficacy of this charm against the wicked tricks of the Piskies? D.

Our correspondent D. will refer to the *Athenæum*, [No. 984] of the 5th of September, 1846, he will find the subject of the ash-tree being used superstitiously with a view to the cure of diseases very ably treated by Mr. Bruce,—and in No. 985 further illustrated by Ambrose Merton. The present communication details, however, curious particulars of the ceremonies observed on the occasion. The charms alluded to by our correspondent are fast passing out of remembrance; and the wish to preserve these relics of a bygone creed which in its time exercised an important influence over the minds of the people, was a main inducement with us to open our columns to Folk-Lore communications.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Jaca.

THE threatened terrors of the route between Saragossa and the foot of the Pyrenees have not proved sufficient to prevent my arrival here in tolerably sound condition. On one subject—that of the dangers to be encountered from robbers—I am convinced that the accounts which we received were much exaggerated. Yet a French gentleman at Saragossa, the superintendent of some mines in the north of Arragon, assured us that he never rode through the country without being armed to the teeth, and in certain districts accompanied by four armed servants. I was afterwards told that this was in fact not only true, but necessary in the case of our informant;—but that it did not follow that the roads were at all dangerous for others,—since the peril which he really encountered every time he travelled arose from the hatred of the Spaniards against him personally, because of the large profits he was drawing from the mines intrusted by a Spanish company to his care. How much reason they have for their hatred may be judged from the fact, that the shares of this company were selling before he took the management of it for one hundred dollars, whereas they are now worth above a thousand! In fact, the mines, from being a ruinous affair, have by active and intelligent management become a most prosperous one; and the shareholders are all making their fortunes. Yet, their indispensable manager, without whom, no doubt, the concern would soon go to the same ruin from which he extricated it, goes about in danger of his life, because Spanish patriotism cannot endure to see a foreigner reap his share of that harvest from Spanish soil which Spaniards could not gather without him.

The other difficulties and disagreeables of the journey could hardly be exaggerated. To an old

traveller of the rougher gender, these things are of course rather matter of amusement than of distress. To ladies, however, the expedition is in truth a formidable one;—and for invalids it might well be deemed, one would think, a desperate attempt. Yet many struggle through it, attracted by the marvellous accounts current of the cures effected by the waters of Panticosa:—to which place we are now en route.

We left Saragossa for Huesca at 3 A.M. in a ramshackle sort of old omnibus dragged by eight mules. Six of the company, including ourselves, were bound for Panticosa. These consisted of a *littérateur* of Madrid, a gentlemanlike agreeable man enough, but a confirmed hypochondriac,—who was dragging a young and very pretty wife to this Ultima Thule of Spanish notions, in the hope of finding there a cure for the various ills which existed only in his own diseased imagination. She was an Andalusian, full of vivacity and good humour, with a laugh ready for every contretemps and a jest for each fresh difficulty. She had been educated in Paris; and was therefore far more alive to all the deficiencies and annoyances which the nurselings of civilization are exposed to when they venture into a land of comparative barbarism than the generality of untravelled Spanish women would have been. Notwithstanding this, she bore with unbroken cheerfulness an amount of fatigue and discomfort which I thought nothing but English pluck and stamina could have enabled my wife to surmount. Our other fellow-travellers were, a Saragossan far gone in a decline and his wife,—and four or five others as far only as Huesca. Among them was the "Alcalde"—mayor—of that very ancient seat of the Aragonese University. He took upon him to furnish amusement during the eight hours of our journey by a succession of fanning;—now asking a young girl opposite to him how old she thought him, and when she guessed (somewhat maliciously) seventy, threatening to commit her to prison as soon as we reached Huesca for calumniating the mayor by adding ten years to his age,—now producing from all sorts of pockets and stowing-places vast stores of provisions, and distributing them among the company with the most comic entreaties to eat. By sheer impatience he at last succeeded in disposing of most of his stock.

Huesca is the *ne plus ultra* of wheel-communication. In truth, several times before arriving there we were inclined to pronounce the attempt to push it thus far a Quixotic undertaking. The road is one of nature's own making for the greater part of the distance—"el camino real de las pernice"—a highroad of the partridges, as the Spaniards say; and our huge coach rocked like a boat in a heavy sea. The country between Saragossa and Huesca—brown, open, parched, and not half cultivated for want of inhabitants—is as wholly devoid of interest as it is possible to conceive. At the end of eight long hours—long, despite the worthy alcalde's *facelia*—we reached the ancient and learned, but ugly and uninteresting, town of Huesca,—and essayed to find quarters in the one posada of the place. Those shown us by a surly ill-looking hostess were pronounced by our charming Andalusian friend—whose untiring kindness made her a veritable guardian angel to us during this rough journey—to be too bad, too filthy to be tolerable. We were not yet broken in to the by-ways of Spanish travelling. So, she set off in search of lodgings in some private house for us as well as for herself and her husband; and by the help of the "gefe politico," an officer answering to the French *préfet*—to whom they had letters of introduction—at last found some. We were but too glad to get our heads under any shelter; and the people of the cottage which received us were at least kind and anxious to oblige. But that night the calamities of the journey began. Our friends had one small, low room—thermometer above ninety—and we another. They might have had both but for their charity to us. One half-hour's trial of our bed was sufficient to convince us that no rest was to be had there. Thousands of sleep-destroyers quite as potent in that way as Macbeth drove us to the comparative tranquillity of a chair by the open window. But a night thus spent was a bad preparation for the morrow's fatigue. Our mules were to be at the door at three A.M.—for it was desirable to get as large a portion as possible of work done before the hot hours of the day. The

next resting-place in our route was this town,—a little mountain city accessible only by mountain paths. But to reach this required twenty hours; so that a night halt by the way became indispensable. Well, after some difficulty in getting the ladies established in their "silleteras," we got under way: six saddle mules, two baggage ditto, four "arrieros," and one donkey forming a long procession "in Indian file," as they say in America—nose to tail, that is—and very difficult it is to make an old Spanish mule depart from this his accustomed order of march. The "silletera" is an instrument of torture substituted in this part of the world for a side-saddle; resembling in its construction two of the machines termed "rough riders" placed on the mule's back some twenty inches apart, while a couple of pillows are laid in the angles of them, and on the ridge of the Spanish pack-saddle which occupies the space between them. The short jerking pace of an "arriero's" over-worked mule, acting on the person of a rider sitting sideways in the machine described without the slightest possibility of steadying herself or accommodating her movement to that of the beast by means of the ill-arranged little foot-board which supplies the place of a stirrup, is sure at the end of an hour's ride to produce a sensation as if the body were broken in half across the loins. As for the gentlemen, their equipment consisted in a rope tied round their steed's nose, and some three or four horse-cloths and sheep-skins girded on his back.

Thus we rode our first stage of seven hours: arriving for our mid-day halt at a little hill village called Sarsa, about eleven A.M. During the last three hours the heat had been intense,—the route bare, arid, shadeless, and ugly. The ladies were dreadfully fatigued, and none of the party much in love with Spanish mule travelling. Our first demand was water, our second mattresses. We ordered our food—eggs and bacon—to be ready at three P.M., and lay down on our backs to get what rest the heat would let us during the intervening hours. We were at least not disturbed by noise; for no one in the village dreamed of stirring during the mid-day heat. The arrieros lay down by the side of their beasts in the stable;—and all was as quiet as the grave.

Having discussed our eggs and bacon, we were again in our saddles—saddles, quotha!—on our beasts' backs at least—by four P.M., with five more hours' work to do, to bring us to our quarters for the night. This stage was, however, not so trying as that of the morning. The road entered the mountains, and began to be both less exposed to the blaze of the sun and more interesting. Nevertheless, none were sorry when, a little after nine, we entered, *ordine longo*, the wretchedly paved little village street of Anzanigo:—such was the name of our halting-place. From nine P.M. till three A.M. is a short allowance for supper and bed, after twelve hours in the saddle,—yet we found it quite long enough for our stay at Anzanigo. While the supper was preparing, I strolled out into the street, and observed in several instances the entire inhabitants of a house taking their rest stretched on the pavement of the street before their doors. The village street, with its family groups thus slumbering in the moonlight, and the varied effects of its light and shade on them and on the broken outline of the buildings, would have formed no bad study for an artist. I could not but feel that they had most judiciously chosen their place of rest; and the thought of the oven-like, low-roofed, filthy den in which I was to pass the night made me much inclined to follow their example.

Once more, at three A.M., we hoisted our sore and aching limbs into the vile substitutes for saddles, and set forth on our eight hours' ride to Jaca. The country through which we passed, though by no means of first-rate beauty, was not altogether uninteresting. The verdure and variety of the mountains were an infinite delight and relief after so many days' journeying over the detestable plains of Arragon. The principal object in the landscape during the day was the fine, clothed peak of Oroel,—which rises to a very considerable height immediately over Jaca to the south-east. As we were coming from precisely this point of the compass, this imposing mass was exactly between us and the city during the whole of our ride,—and the last part of it was occupied in winding round its base. Towards the

town it presents a huge red cliff, the various shades on which, and the contrast of those on the pine woods which crown and skirt it, make a very picturesque background to the view of the city, looking southwards.

It was about half-past eleven when our weary *cortège* entered the gate of Jaca:—a nearly square compact little city, still comfortably contained within its ancient walls. A citadel, almost if not quite as large as the city itself, forms a separate enclosure about a stone's throw to the north; and about a mile behind that rises the main chain of the Pyrenees, with the valley of the Canfranc—through which some five or six hours of mountain mule-path takes you into France—opening between its peaks to give exit to the river Arragon. Again to-day the last three hours of our journey were the most killing part of the day's work; and I am persuaded that we should have done better to have travelled wholly by night.

Jaca, notwithstanding its high antiquity and early importance in the history of medieval Arragonese liberty—for liberty had one of her strongholds amid these mountains some eight centuries ago—Jaca now-a-days has little or nothing to interest a stranger. Our Spanish friends, indeed, seem to take a lively interest in the fact that the body of one Santa Orosia is in the keeping of the Cathedral chapter here. But the saint's name was new to me; and I confess to having felt far more keenly interested by the inspection of our quarters in the "Posada" of Don Jose Vendras. This Jaca hostelry is one degree, and but one degree, better than that at Huesca. The people, however, are civil instead of sulky:—which to one's comfort, moral at least if not physical, is a great point. So we have determined to remain three nights beneath their roof, to recruit.

T.A.T.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

We have heard with much satisfaction that a proposal on the part of the Keeper of the State Papers, to print a series of Calendars or Indices of the valuable historical documents in his custody, has been agreed to by the Government;—and that this good work is to be commenced immediately. It is stated, moreover, that the several volumes will be produced in a neat and comparatively inexpensive form, which will render them accessible to all classes of historical inquirers. They will thus be enabled at a glance to ascertain positively how far the various series of diplomatic correspondence and other documents in the manuscript department of the British Museum find their completion or corresponding portions among the stores of materials for our national history which are under the care of the Keeper of the State Papers. An important deduction which we hope may be drawn from this proceeding is, that it manifests an intention on the part of the authorities to afford facilities for the consultation of the papers at that department under regulations as little stringent as possible, consistently with their safe custody; regulations, in short, similar to those which obtain at the other great repository of "materials for the history of Great Britain,"—the British Museum.

The Earl of Carnarvon, who died a few days since—having hardly completed his fiftieth year,—deserves commemoration in the *Athenæum* for literary merits of a higher order than that aristocratic trifling with the Muses or with the question of the hour which is pleasing in its own time and place but "passes with the passing of the day." A notice in the *Times* reminds us that he was educated at Eton, along with Lord Morpeth and Mr. Disraeli. As Lord Porchester, he went out with the Carlists in 1821. His visit to the Peninsula was followed by the publication of his carefully-executed poem of 'The Moor';—and the detail of his exciting personal adventures drew the notes to that rhymed romance into a somewhat disproportioned prominence, and gave the work a chance of being referred to by all who desire a real—and not a hearsay—knowledge of the Peninsula during that particular quarrel. We may mention, also, a more recent work on 'Portugal and Galicia.' Of late the Earl's contributions to Art took the more solid form of stone and mortar:—being limited to the restoration of his family seat, Highclere Castle. Ill health, we are informed, interrupted

Lord Carnarvon's literary no less than his political career;—but, whenever the list of noble authors shall be carried down to the present day, his name will take an honourable place in right of the poem mentioned. In the days of Hayley, Darwin, Merry, and Whalley such a work would have sufficed to make for its author a brilliant reputation.

Practical science has sustained a heavy loss by the death of Sir Isambert Brunel, the well-known executor of that great work of engineering skill, the Thames Tunnel. We borrow from the *Times* a few particulars relating to the history of this eminent man. Sir Isambert—

"was by birth a Frenchman; but his life and genius were almost wholly devoted to the invention and construction of works of great public utility in this country. He was born at Hacqueville, in Normandy, now in the Département de l'Eure, in the year 1769. He was educated for the Church, with the prospect of succeeding to a living, and was accordingly sent at an early age to the seminary of St. Nicaise, at Rouen. But he soon evinced so strong a predilection for the physical sciences, and so great a genius for mathematics, that the superiors of the establishment recommended he should be educated for some other profession. Accordingly, at the proper age he entered the Royal Navy,—made several voyages to the West Indies,—and returned home in 1792. At this time the French Revolution was at its height:—and as Mr. Brunel entertained Royalist opinions, he emigrated to the United States, where, necessarily, fortunately, compelled him to follow the natural bent of his mind, and to adopt the profession of a civil engineer. He was first engaged to survey a large tract of land near Lake Erie. He was employed in building the Bovey Theatre, in New York, which, not many years ago was burnt down. He furnished plans for canals, and for various machines connected with a cannon foundry then being established in the State of New York. About the year 1799 he had matured his plans for making ship blocks by machinery. The United States was not then the field for so inventive a genius as Brunel's. He determined upon visiting England and offering his services and plans for this purpose to the British Government. Lord Spencer, then we believe First Lord of the Admiralty, became his friend and patron. From this time he continued to reside in England, and refused to entertain many propositions made to him to leave this country and settle abroad under the auspices of other Governments. After much opposition to his plans he was employed to execute them in Plymouth Dockyard. To perfect his design and to erect the machinery was the arduous labour of many years. With a true discrimination, he selected Mr. Henry Maudslay to assist in the execution of the work; and thus was laid the foundation of one of the most extensive engineering establishments in the kingdom,—and in which, perhaps, a degree of science and skill has been combined and applied to mechanical invention and improvement scarcely exceeded by any other in the world. The block machinery was finished in 1806; and has continued ever since in full operation, supplying our fleet with blocks of very superior description to those previously in use, and at a large annual saving to the public. A few years afterwards he was employed by Government to erect sawmills, upon a new principle, in the dockyards of Chatham and Woolwich. Several other inventions were the offspring of his singularly fertile mind about this time:—the circular saw, for cutting veneers of valuable woods; and the beautiful little machine for winding cotton thread into balls, which greatly extended its consumption. About two years before the termination of the war, Mr. Brunel, under the countenance of the Duke of York, invented a machine for making shoes for the army by machinery, the value and cheapness of which were fully appreciated, and it was extensively used; but, the Peace of 1815 lessening the demand, the machinery was ultimately laid aside. Steam navigation also at that time attracted his attention. He was engaged in the building of one of the first Ramsgate steamboats, and, we believe, introduced the principle of the double engine for the purpose. He also induced the Admiralty to allow him to build a vessel to try the experiment of towing ships out to sea, the possibility of which was then denied. The visit of the Emperor Alexander to this country, after the Peace, led him to submit to the Emperor a plan for making a tunnel under the Neva; where the accumulation of ice, and the suddenness with which it breaks up on the termination of winter rendered the erection of a bridge a work of great difficulty. This was the origin of his plan for a tunnel under the Thames,—which had been twice before attempted without success."

The history of that great work is too recent and familiar to require that we should repeat it here.—Mr. Brunel received the honour of knighthood from Lord Melbourne's administration. He was a Vice-President of the Royal Society, a corresponding member of the Institute of France, and a Vice-President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He was also a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.—He has died in his eighty-first year.

The daily papers report also the death of the Hon. Thomas Stapleton, Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries.

In our paragraph last week relating to the Ipswich Museum, the accidental substitution of the name of George for James when speaking of the late Mr. Ransome consigned a good man to the tomb before his time. The paragraph contained abundantly within itself the means of its own correction,—by its reference to the paragraph of the

week before in which the death of Mr. James Ransome is properly reported,—by its enumeration of the known deeds of the deceased gentleman,—and by its account of the portrait to which so many of the friends of the late Mr. James Ransome are subscribers. It can scarcely therefore have misled any one to whom the late Mr. Ransome was known.—The name on the cards of invitation to the anniversary meeting of the Ipswich Museum was not, as we had supposed, that of the deceased gentleman, affixed just before his death,—but that of Mr. George Ransome, the son inheriting his father's good deeds.

It is stated that the Queen has conferred a pension of 100*l.* per annum from the Civil List on Mr. George Petrie, one of the honorary secretaries of the Royal Irish Academy,—so well known for his extensive antiquarian researches.

We have had handed to us, by the kindness of a friend, the last utterance of poor Ebenezer Elliott's extinguished Muse. The two stanzas derive, as will be seen, their chief interest from that fact. There is not on them the mark of the strong hand that wrote at the dictation of the passionate yet wise heart. They bear date "Nov. 23, 1849,"—when the lamp was already burning dim. "Desire" had almost "failed,"—and "the daughters of music" were already "brought low." He had marked them as a song—to be sung to the tune of "This time this heart should be unmoved." Here they are.—

"Thy notes, sweet Robin, soft as dew,
Heard soon or late are dear to me;
To music I could bid adieu,—
But not to thee.

When from my heart earth's lifeless throng
Shall pass away, no more to be,
O Autumn's primrose, Robin's song,
Return to me!"

Eight days later, the primrose was scentless and the robin silent for him.—"My father-in-law suffered much," writes the husband of the Corn-Law Rhymers' daughter, "till within the last few hours:—when he became insensible, and slept like an infant."—The poet lies buried in Darfield churchyard,—which will be a place of pilgrimage to many hearts: for he spoke to the sympathies of his class with a powerful tongue. There is a volume of poems by him in the press—to come out, it is said, by Christmas.

One more winged messenger has come in from its travel on that dark and mysterious sea which hides the fate of Sir John Franklin and his gallant band of adventurers—bringing, like the rest, no olive-branch of hope. The Abram whaler has arrived; but has, as might be expected from what we already know, no tidings of the missing Expedition. She got as far as Smith's Sound: and landed provisions and memoranda on a point made conspicuous by a flag-staff.—We have heard a rumour of an Expedition proposed to be fitted out at private cost in aid of the Government search, and to be entrusted to the command of a well-known Arctic Commander:—but the accounts as they have as yet reached us are too vague to be relied on.

We must not pass unnoticed the most remarkable expression yet recorded of that revolution in the relations of time and space which the progress of steam locomotion is bringing about. Paris and London are at the several ends of a line whose geographical length, and the time it took to traverse not many years since, our readers well know. It has now been measured off, in time, at a distance of only eight hours and a half! The *Times* newspaper, printed in the capital of England on the morning of Tuesday last, was delivered in the capital of France in the middle of the same day to a set of speculators on the Bourse who almost refused to believe the evidence of their own sense. Thirty-five years ago Paris was as far from England, as regards accessibility, as Pekin is now. Now, the newspaper is printed for the use of both capitals on the same day! This feat—was the result of an experiment made to ascertain what can be done in the way of bringing the cities close together—was accomplished by the route of Folkestone and Boulogne:—and it is worth while to mention one other phase by which its significance is rendered more intelligible and striking. The editor of the *Boulogne Gazette* received a copy of the *Times* of the day at a quarter past nine in the morning,—left for him on its way by the deputation making the experiment:

and the good people of that French town had the closing prices of the funds at the Paris Bourse on the previous day communicated—not from Paris, but—
from London! Corollary:—with a swift train and good arrangements, it is nearer to Boulogne from Paris, going round by London, and twice crossing the Channel that lately divided the two nations altogether,—than by the French mail travelling expressly between the two points!

The scheme of Lord Ashley and Mr. Sidney Herbert for the relief of distressed needlewomen is based on two facts and the consequences which flow from them. Owing to the greater wear and waste of male life, there are now in England some half a million more grown up women than men. This is fact the first. Owing to their harder and more adventurous character, the males settled in the far-off colonies are greatly in excess of the other sex. These two conditions produce in their different circles serious evils and inconveniences. At home, women's labour is a drug—and the surplus female population a burden. In the colonies—in the Australian colonies more especially—women are in demand. Homes are prepared for and wait them at their landing. Here, they are denied all the domestic ties—all the endearments which, beyond the mere instinct of existence, make life sweet. There, there is room for all,—a market for the work of the fingers and the hopes which may find occupation for the heart. It is an obvious way of mitigating the evils which arise from such an unequal distribution of the race,—to carry out the surplus from one country to the other. But how can the adjustment be made? That is the question of questions; one on which it was not unreasonably thought that a statesman and an examiner would have been able to throw new lights. But no; it is the old tale a thousand times repeated here,—charity, charity! Again the appeal is made to private benevolence,—and again it must fail before an evil of so gigantic a size. The cost of each deportation to Sydney is 15*l*. There are in London alone 35,000 professed needlewomen,—and more than double that number in addition who are more or less dependent on the needle for support. The removal of 100,000 females from London would barely restore the equilibrium of the sexes,—yet this removal would cost a million and a half of money—a sum before which charity shrinks appalled. It is very well for private benevolence to undertake the task of trying experiments; but here is a case in which experiments have been fully made. All the elements of the work are ascertained,—the necessities to be met, the difficulties in the way, the cost of producing any given result. Charity may tax itself further,—until a more powerful machinery is brought into remedial operation it is called upon to do so; but at best its aid must be as a drop in the ocean. Government alone is equal to so great a work:—and sooner or later Government will have to undertake it.

The neglect of the powers that rule the hour in such social affairs came before us in another form during the week, in the case of the Philanthropic Institute. This Society, after giving to the children of improvidence who are placed under its charge an excellent industrial training, is anxious to send them out to the Australian colonies,—to cut them off from all their old companions in crime, from their old haunts, and from the influence of their ignorant and criminal parents. Hitherto, as its secretary writes, it has been unable to obtain any assistance from the State in this most desirable work. Yet no objection can be taken to its programme. What is the crime? Ignorance in action.—The Society takes the criminal into its institution, instructs him, and then wishes to remove him from the scenes familiar to his evil thoughts and evil acts. Such boys are among the best of those "who leave their country for their country's good."

The *Moniteur* announces that Mr. Robert Stephenson, the English engineer, has been named a Knight of the Order of the Legion of Honour.

The Continental papers furnish us with certain archaeological details, of more or less interest.—The French are busily pursuing their excavations in Rome:—seeking, it would seem, for relics of the past abroad, to compensate for their utter abnegation of a past at home. They are turning up the pavements of Rome, as they did those of Paris: in search of monuments in the one case,—as in the other for

their destruction. In both cases they give the impression of children playing at the game of "hide and seek."—They do not seem to gain much at either pastime. The text of some Latin author set them digging for buried treasure round the Column of Trajan; but, as has been too usual with their nation of late, they had the pits they dug for their sole reward. Then, they tried the Campo Formio; but again "took nothing by their motion" of the ground. The Tiber is a muddy stream—greatly needing some process of purification, and a change of whose current here and there would be useful. The French have an idea, in their summary way, of turning its current altogether so far as Rome is concerned: yet strangely enough, what never seems to occur to them at home, they are seeking in this change of the stream—this stirring of the foul, stagnant waters—for the precious things of old—the embodied truths that lie under the dark river into which the Goth and the Hun cast them, yet to testify to that which was real,—and therefore immortal—in the wisdom of our ancestors. Thus, in the old bed of the polluted stream, they have found, with its characters of immortality uneffaced, the statue of Lysippus—as it is supposed—of which we spoke a fortnight since. Now, there is talk of a number of pictures, two thousand years old, illustrating the incidents of the 'Odyssey' found on the side of Santa Maria Majora,—a district of the city from which the tide of population has flowed into new channels since the days of ancient Rome.—How great would be the gain of these "diggings," to the French if they might teach them the lesson, that from all the ruins which "cumber the ground" of the past there is ever something worth extracting. No wreck but yields something for salvage:—the oldest house that falls buries some treasure worthy to be redeemed. There is gold everywhere for the sifting. The French may come upon a great revelation other than that they seek—and one which they much need—if they should turn the Tiber.

The Paris papers state that one of the historical monuments of France is on the eve of disappearing before the spirit of sanitary improvement which is opening and enlarging the streets of that capital. The Hotel de Montbazou, situate at the angle formed by the Rue Béthisy and the Rue de la Monnaie—once the abode of the Admiral de Coligny, and one of whose windows is still shown as that from which the body of the Calvinist hero was cast to the murderers of Saint Bartholomew—is about to be demolished.

In Spain an archaeological discovery has been made at Saragossa, amid the ruins of a Roman edifice. The discovery, in excavating, of calcined stones, carbonized woods, and fused metals, proclaiming the violent action of fire, having led to further exploration,—at various depths have been found, it is said, fragments of pottery of many kinds and sizes made of the clay of Seguntum, lamps of terra cotta, bronze medals and statuettes, a Roman pavement—and lower still a quantity of human remains, some fossilized, and numerous medals and other relics which testify to the occupation of the scene of their discovery by a people advanced in civilization anterior to the Carthaginian invasion and the Roman domination. The excavations, say the papers, are to be continued all round the neighbourhood.

From Upsala an account is given of a curious glimpse into the past conceded to high-born curiosity. The Dukes of East Gotha and Dalecarlia, students at that University, conceived a desire to look bodily on the mortal remains of Gustavus Vasa,—which lie in the vaults of the cathedral of that city. Accordingly, by special authorization of the king, the marble sarcophagus containing the body was opened, that the young princes might look upon the long dead. The historical lesson which they sought, they found not—but they found another. "And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up, but his face is covered with a mantle." Decay has shut the lineaments of Gustavus Vasa beyond the opening of even the royal key. The body was a skeleton,—but the garments of velvet and silk, with gold and silver brocade, were fresh. The crown, the sceptre, the globe, the ornaments of the scabbard inclosing the royal sword, and the massive golden buckles of the girdle and shoes

adorned with precious stones, were still entire,—but muscle and sinew were rotted away. The bangles lavished to illustrate the dead were there to mock him.—There is worse teaching for a prince than that which the young Dukes got by the open tomb of Gustavus Vasa. Such a proclamation of the earthly style and titles, in such a presence, must have gone direct to the heart of even youth. The text was there, with its comment; the triumphal shout, with its echo—for echo is always a sigh, even when it repeats the voice of triumph.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

The First of a Series of ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, by Dr. Bachhoffner, on the PHILOSOPHY of SCIENTIFIC RECREATION, daily at Two o'clock and on the Evenings of Tuesday and Thursday at Eight.—AN ENTIRELY NEW SET OF DIS-SOLVING VIEWS of LONDON in the SIXTEENTH CENTURY and AS IT NOW IS, with a Descriptive Lecture, daily at half-past Four, and in the Evenings at a quarter to Ten.—THE VIEWS of ROME are shown daily at One o'clock.—LECTURE ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE VOICE and ON THE ART OF SINGING, by G. Clifford, Esq., on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at a quarter to Four, and on the alternate Evenings at Eight.—LECTURES ON CHEMISTRY by Mr. Ashley.—EXHIBITION OF THE OXY-HYDROGEN MICROSCOPE, DIVER and DIVING BELLS, &c. &c.—Admission, 1*s*; Schools, half-price.

THE NILE.—RE-OPENED AT THE EGYPTIAN PALACE, PICCADILLY.—The new and splendid MOVING PANORAMA of the NILE, showing all the stupendous Works of Antiquity on its Banks, from Cairo the capital of Egypt to the Second Cataract in Nubia. Painted by Henry Warren and James Fahey from drawings made by Joseph Bonomi during many years' residence there.—Mornings, 5; Evening, 8 o'clock.—Stalls, 3*s*; Pit 2*s*; Gallery 1*s*.

EXPOSITION DE L'INDUSTRIE FRANÇAISE, 15, George Street, Hanover Square, under the direction of M. Chas. Salles-d'Angosse, des Manufactures de France.—Open daily, from Eleven to Five and from Seven to Ten. Admission, 1*s*. The Exposition has been honoured by the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Albert and the leading members of the Nobility and gentry now in London. It presents one of the most beautiful Exhibitions of the present day. The choicest productions of French art and manufactures are here arranged in most harmonious order,—the beauty of each work being enhanced and its proportions and adaptations capable of being more fully appreciated by the exquisite taste displayed in the arrangement.

SOCIETIES

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Dec. 10.—G. Bellas Greenough, Esq. V. P. in the chair.—Dr. Digby was elected a Fellow. The first paper read gave some extracts from a letter by Dr. J. D. Hooker to his father, Sir W. J. Hooker, dated 'Sept. 13, 1849, Lachooong River, Thibet frontier,' in the Eastern Himalayas, and which was received only on November 26th last, describing a fourth entrance from Sikkim into Thibet, over that vast alpine range, by a pass never before attained to by any European traveller—called the Donkiah Pass. This is at an elevation of about 18,000 feet, near the course of the river Lachooong, which rises in some lakes at the base of Mount Donkiah, which is about 23,000 feet in height. The Lachooong thence flows south to Choongtam; where it unites with the Lachen River, coming from the north-west, and previously explored by Dr. Hooker. From the summit of the Donkiah Pass, the writer had a noble and extensive prospect for a distance of sixty miles into Thibet,—the view being bounded by a lower distant chain of mountains. Dr. Hooker was disappointed at the size of the adjoining plains of Cholamo, on the west of the Donkiah Pass,—and also at the lakes, these being less than he had before expected to find them. His description, however, of the extent and enormous mass of snow, and of the magnificent blue glaciers that fill all the gorges and gullies of these alpine regions, and of the immense icicles hanging from the rocks of gneiss, was extremely graphic; and it is stated that nowhere had he witnessed such scenes of snow and ice, both in extent and continuity, except in the newly-discovered islands and districts of the South Polar region. Among other novelties detailed in his letter, Dr. Hooker mentioned two remarkable facts:—1st, the discovery of a Lichen which he had before seen only on the rocks in Cockburn Island, in the South Polar Sea. It is named *Lecanora Triniata*; and it was found on the Donkiah rocks, colouring them a bright orange red colour, in the same way as it does those of that Southern Island—and which is so effulgent as in both localities to be visible at a distance of several miles. 2nd, The existence of hot springs, containing sulphurous hydrogen gas, under Mount Donkiah,—which issue forth about the line of perpetual snow.—At the conclusion of this paper, which was illustrated by two sketch-maps, Dr. Gutzlaff, who has just returned from China, made some observations. He mentioned the important news, that the Celestial Empire is now open to all tra-

vellers—the emperor having recently taken off the old prohibition. Dr. Gutzlaff recommended some European travellers to proceed over this stupendous Himalayan chain into Tibet,—investigating the plateaux of that unknown country, and thence descending to the tributaries and sources of the Yangtze-kiang, to follow the course of that immense river through China to the sea. This noble tour—through a vast and unknown territory—would, he felt confident, (and he lamented his own want of strength to make it,) be productive of the greatest and most important discoveries in geography, as well as in other branches of science.

The second paper read was by Col. Lloyd, 'On Madagascar,' illustrated by Mr. Arrowsmith.

GEOLOGICAL.—Dec. 5.—Sir C. Lyell, President, in the chair.—R. A. Slaney, Esq. M.P., W. Lee, Esq., E. Noel, Esq., C. Nicholson, Esq., and Count Achille de Zigno, of Padua, were elected Fellows.—The following papers were read:—

'On the Age of the Upper Tertiaries in England,' by S. V. Wood, Esq. In the first edition of his 'Principles of Geology' Sir C. Lyell proposed to classify the tertiary deposits according to the number of species of fossil remains which they contained identical with recent species. With a few exceptions, this system of classification has been generally adopted. In the last edition of his 'Elements of Geology' Sir C. Lyell states that the Suffolk Red and Coralline Crag contain 20 to 30 per cent. of recent Mollusca—and are, therefore, named miocene; whilst the Norwich Crag with sixty or seventy species is considered as older pliocene. From his recent examination of the Lamellibranchiata, from which he believes the other orders would not greatly differ, Mr. Wood finds the recent species in the coralline crag to be 60 and in the red crag 70 per cent., and hence classes the former as older pliocene the latter as pliocene. He then remarked on the uncertainty of this mode of classifying formations, arising first from the introduction of species from older deposits, to which he did not assign much importance; and, secondly, from differences of opinion among naturalists in regard to the limits and identity of species, which is now very seriously felt. He also stated that the fossils first found in any newly discovered formation will probably be the most common species then existing in greatest abundance, whilst the rarer species, just entering on the stage of existence, will only be collected at a later period, and hence the determination of the age of the deposit will be liable to frequent change. Though the percentage of recent species in the coralline and red crag is nearly the same, yet Mr. Wood on other grounds considers these formations as belonging to distinct periods. The coralline crag has also been deposited in deeper water than the red, which has more of a littoral aspect. Of the living species of Lamellibranchiata which also flourished in the crag seas, more than fifty still occur on the coasts of Scandinavia, but four-fifths of these also in the Mediterranean, whilst some others are identified with species from the Sooloo Sea near the Equator, so that the temperature then seems to have been milder than at present. We know that dry land existed during the deposition of the crag, and consequently freshwater deposits must have been formed. More than seventy species of fossils have been found in the English freshwater beds, but all recent, and these formations are therefore considered of very modern origin or post-pliocene. Mr. Wood, however thinks that freshwater Mollusca have a greater specific longevity than marine, and therefore, that some of these deposits may be of the age of the coralline crag, as those at Clacton, Grays and Stutton; whilst those at Copford are probably newer. Some of the shells in these beds, though now extinct in England, still continue to live in distant countries, as the *Cyrena trigonula* in the Nile, and must therefore have taken a long period to migrate so far. The *Macacus*, a species of monkey, whose remains are found with those of the hippopotamus and elephant at Grays, seems better calculated for the climate of the crag than of the period preceding the appearance of man. From a list of the Mammalia at different periods Mr. Wood infers that a race of animals has arisen and departed whilst the land and freshwater Mollusca have lived

on unaltered. He also considers that a long interval not marked by any English formations has separated the eocene or London clay from the upper tertiaries or crag.

'On the Occurrence of Mammalian Remains at Brentford,' by J. Morris, Esq. More than thirty years ago Mr. Trimmer obtained some valuable remains from this locality. The railway works in that neighbourhood have recently exposed some interesting sections, and afforded a considerable number of mammalian bones, and a few shells of recent freshwater species. The deposit seems the result of fluvial action, when a river, far more deep and extensive than the present stream, flowed along the valley. The mammalian remains are bones of the elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, aurochs, short-horned ox, red deer, rein-deer and great cave tiger or lion. The occurrence of the Arctic reindeer with the other species considered indicative of a more tropical climate is very interesting, as well as that of the tiger hitherto only found in ossiferous caverns. The age of the deposits seems still rather uncertain. It is important to remark that it is generally along those valleys where the present drainage of the country is effected that we find the most extensive deposits of mammalian remains and recent shells, and consequently that very little alteration can have taken place in the physical configuration of the country since their deposition.

ASIATIC.—Dec. 1.—Prof. H. H. Wilson in the chair.—The Secretary read letters from Capt. Newbold, descriptive of the manners and habits of the gipsies of Syria, Egypt, and Persia. This mysterious race is found scattered in various tribes over Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, and Egypt; although according to Leo Clavius the Emperor Bajazet expelled them all from the Ottoman Empire. In Palestine and the South of Syria they are designated *Näuer*,—but in the North of Syria and Asia Minor they style themselves *Kurbât*, *Rumeli*, or *Jingânih*. In all these countries the gipsies present the peculiarities of their brethren in Europe; leading a wandering life, and subsisting chiefly on the credulity of the people around them. The men are dealers in donkeys, horses, and cattle,—and are adepts in snaring game. The women are fortune-tellers and venders of charms; and they pretend to great knowledge in palmistry, divination, and the art of making philtres. They are not believed to have any idea of religion; nor are they known ever to pray or perform any religious rite. But in the East, many have, from compulsion, learnt, and will, if pressed, repeat—the Mohammedan creed. They are said to eat the flesh of all animals but the hog. In physical appearance they resemble the gipsies of Europe,—particularly in the peculiar expression of the eye. When living near towns, they dress much like other people; but when in the hills, or in secluded places, they go half naked, dwelling in tents, or moveable huts. From information obtained from the head of the gipsies at Aleppo, it is understood that his tribe is divided into thirty *bails* or houses; and he is responsible for their conduct and for their tribute to the Turkish Government. He believes that his race has lived in those parts since the creation; although he has heard a tradition of their having come from Hind, or India. In their intercourse with the people around, they speak Turkish or Arabic; but among themselves they converse in their own peculiar dialect,—of which Capt. Newbold collected, *visa voce*, a number of words. Many of these are Sanscrit, mixed with Persian, Turkish, and Arabic.—The numerals are partly Hindû, partly Persian, but are defective,—and their defects are made up from the Turkish dialect. The grammatical inflexions in some points resemble the Hindustani. Certain chiefs asserted that their people had a peculiar written character,—a symbol; but if this be true, it is known to very few, and kept secret.—In Egypt they are called *Helebi*; and, as in other lands, they form a distinct class of people, living apart and differing in language from the other inhabitants,—being aliens in the land which the English long believed to be that of their origin. Their mode of life is much the same as in Syria and in Europe; the men being dealers in animals,—the women fortune-tellers and makers of

charms, &c. They move from place to place,—but seldom wander far from the valley and delta of the Nile. Their physical peculiarities are clearly discernible; although in dress they differ little from the other people. Their aptitude in disguise, however, enables them to deceive many; and concealed gipsies are said to be found in every public department in Egypt. The *Helebi* are a different race from the *Ghajars*,—another class of vagrants, who are rope-dancers, musicians, and the like; but there is some connexion between them,—for a *Helebi* will marry a *Ghajar* maiden, although he will not give a damsel of his own to a *Ghajar*. The women, unlike those of the *Ghajars*, are very chaste. They are punished with death if detected in an intrigue. Their language differs from that of the Kurbâts of Syria. Only a few words are the same; and there is in it a greater proportion of Arabic, and less of Persian, Turkish, or Indian. Their numerals are defective,—and are principally Persian. No peculiar written character has hitherto been found among them. They pretend to draw their origin from Yemen, or the Hadramat; from whence they say they were driven out by a tyrannical king named Zir, and that their history is written in an obscure work called the 'Tarikh i Zir,'—of which no copy has yet been obtained. They are now compelled to pay a kind of poll tax, which they attempt to evade by every possible means,—so that it is difficult to compute their number; but there is no doubt that it was much underrated by the principal Sheikh, who stated that there were in Egypt four houses, each consisting of about fifty families. They do not acknowledge any religion of their own; but they have no scruple in externally conforming to Mohammedan opinions and observances.—The gipsies of Persia may be traced over all the country from the Caspian to the deserts of Kerman and Mekran. They are found also in Scinde, Beloochistan, and Mooltan. Their kind of life is essentially the same as that of their brethren in Syria and Egypt. In Persia they are divided into two great divisions,—the *Kaoli* or *Gharbati* (identified with the Kurbâts of Syria), and the *Goubaz*. The origin of these terms is doubtful; but the first appears to be a corruption of *Kâbûl*, belonging to Kalâl. There are other classes of vagabonds pretending to be gipsies, but who are not so. The gipsies rarely intermarry with the surrounding people; and they conform to the Mohammedan faith when it is advantageous for them to do so. The few of their words which have been obtained are nearly identical with the Hindustani and the Syrian gipsy equivalents. A comparison of the vocabularies with the extensive list collected in England by Col. Harriott, and published in the second volume of the Society's Transactions, is a convincing proof of the identity of all those scattered tribes of one great race.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Dec. 7.—Mr. Hawkins in the chair.—Mr. Tucker read the report of the surveyor under whose direction the tunnel into the centre of Silbury Hill has been made. It was accompanied by a series of geometrical drawings (presented by Mr. Blandford) representing in detail the operations undertaken for the purpose of examining this tumulus.

The Secretary read a paper, illustrated by numerous sketches by Major Davis, 'On the Ecclesiastical Edifices of Brecon and its neighbourhood.'

Mr. Nesbit called attention to a specimen of a domestic building of the thirteenth century, now fast falling to decay—the 'Abbot's Fish House,' at Meare, in Somersetshire; which was formerly a manor of the adjoining Abbey of Glastonbury, and which (as its name sufficiently indicates) was at that time in great part under water. It is on record that the abbot had seven men here employed in catching and curing fish. Judging from Mr. Nesbit's sketch, the dilapidations are not so extensive but that the place could be repaired at small cost; and an opinion was strongly expressed that some steps might be taken to rescue, if possible, from impending destruction such a relic of the ancient glories of Glastonbury.

Some bronze armille found at Cirencester were exhibited by Messrs. Buckman and Newmarch;—together with some further specimens of the Roman pavement recently discovered in that town, consisting of tracings, full size, of the different compartments

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which contain heads of Pomona, Flora and Ceres, and Silenus with the ass. Mr. Yates offered some observations on a new type of bronze celt recently found whilst dredging in the Thames, near Wandsworth; and which—together with a highly ornamented buckler of supposed Saxon work (of which only one other similar specimen has ever been discovered), and a number of Romano-British swords, all in a high state of preservation—has been presented to the Museum of the Institute by Mr. W. English.

A curious specimen of an ancient mediæval painting was exhibited by Mr. Colnaghi:—but there were few or no indicia by which to recognize the story treated of by the limner.

The Rev. H. Maclean forwarded some Fibule and other ornaments taken from a skeleton lately exhumed at Seaby, and supposed to be of Saxon or Danish manufacture.

Mr. Poynter exhibited a series of seals of the Port and Corporation of Dover from the earliest periods:—and the Chairman remarked that considerable light could often be thrown on historical and other early documents, if gentlemen who possessed the means of collecting such impressions would communicate the results of their labours to these meetings.

A great variety of antiques were laid before the meeting: amongst which were, a watch supposed to have belonged to James the First, now in the possession of Mr. Oavry—an elaborately carved ivory triple and a marriage coffer, belonging to Mr. Webb,—an ancient carved spice mill and drinking glass from Kirtling Priory—&c. &c. &c.

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—Dec. 3.—T. Bellamy, V.P., in the chair.—J. B. Bunning, C. R. Cockerell, G. G. Scott, and W. C. Stow, were elected Fellows,—and R. P. Pope, and M. Digby Wyatt, Associates.—A paper was read by R. H. Billings, 'On the Ancient Architecture of Scotland.'

HORTICULTURAL.—Dec. 4.—J. R. Gowen, Esq., Secretary, in the chair.—The Duke of Hamilton, S. R. Heseltine, Esq., and T. Henry, Esq., were elected Fellows, and the following gardeners Home corresponding members.—Mr. H. Baily, gr. to G. Harcourt, Esq.; Mr. R. Errington, gr. to Sir P. G. Egerton, Bart.; Mr. T. Ingrata, gr. to Her Majesty, at Frogmore; and Mr. A. Toward, gr. to Her Majesty, at Osborne.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Nov. 27.—R. H. Solly, Esq., in the chair.—The Secretary read a paper, communicated to him by the Prince of Camino, descriptive of a new species of *Electus*, now living in the menagerie of the Zoological Society of Amsterdam. The name under which this bird was characterized is *E. Cornelia*. The paper contained a view of the synonymy of the genus.—In a note on the great riches of the Museum of Leyden, the writer suggests that a detailed catalogue with descriptions and figures of new species would be at once the most effectual aid towards the progress of science and the most honourable monument to the industry of the Dutch naturalists. The vast accumulation of subjects from the Indian Archipelago, Ashantee, and other interesting countries explored by them, either at their own risk or under the commission of their Government, has placed the Leyden Museum in advance of those of London, of Paris, and of all the world: while the peculiar talent and extensive acquaintance with species possessed by M. Schlegel—who would necessarily have the chief conduct of such a catalogue—would insure its execution in a manner entirely worthy of the materials and of the present state of the science.—Mr. Arthur Adams, R.N., communicated a monograph of *Bulidæ*, with descriptions of new species, illustrated by drawings of the animals.—Mr. G. B. Sowerby, jun., communicated a paper on some new species of *Pholas*, from the collection of Mr. Cumming.—Mr. H. N. Turner read some observations 'On the Evidences of Affinity afforded by the Skull in the Ungulate Mammalia.'

A correspondent sends us the following *Whisper* to the Council of the Zoological Society.—On Saturday last I visited the gardens of the Society,—and about 3 o'clock chanced to be present, with other persons, men, women and children, in the

room set apart for reptiles. Suddenly there was a buzz and titter amongst the visitors, and I heard that the keeper was about to awaken the great rock serpent. In a moment all were attracted to the cage; when, to my horror, I saw the keeper open a small door, and drop in a live rabbit!—Now, I submit, with all proper respect, that such scenes ought not to be exhibited in public under any circumstances whatever. I am content to leave to the decision of men of science the question, whether any compensating good can result from keeping such a reptile?—whether, if kept, it would not live on freshly killed rabbits as well as on live ones?—but there is no question that the exhibition of such horrors, before a chance audience of men, women and children, will not be tolerated.—In the hope that it is only necessary to direct the attention of the Council to this subject, I will say no more for the present.

G.C.

INSTITUTE OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Dec. 11.—J. Field, Esq. President, in the chair.—The paper read was 'On the facilities for a Ship Canal Communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, through the Isthmus of Panama,' by Lieut.-Col. Lloyd. The general views of the author incline to the formation of a ship canal, in preference to a railway. The paper reviewed the surveys of Garella, Morel, and others, who had examined the country subsequently to Col. Lloyd. It examined the various lines proposed; and gave reasons for preferring that which, starting from the bay of Limon, would proceed by a short canal, through a flat country, to the River Chagres,—thence up the River Trinidad, as far as its depth would suit,—and then cutting a canal into the Rio Grande, debouch at Panama. This line, it was contended, in the present state of the science of engineering, presented no obstacles, excepting the climate and the expense, to prevent a canal being cut of sufficient depth and dimensions to float, from one river to the other, the largest ship in Her Majesty's navy. The climate was stated, from personal experience, to be as good as in any tropical country, except in some particular spots where from local causes certain complaints were rife. The expense could be accurately estimated only by the survey of experienced engineers; but in a country abounding in fine timber, and the best building materials of all kinds,—whilst no great chain of mountains, as had been fancifully depicted on supposititious charts, had any existence except in the imagination of the designer,—it was fair to allow, that the cost of a canal of such limited length could not be very great, and the supply of water might be presumed to be ample, in a climate where there was copious rain for nine months in each year. The means of accomplishing the work were then considered. It was argued, that a portion of the convicts from this country might be more advantageously sent there than to our present penal settlements. The means of preventing their escape were shown; and a proposition was made for introducing with them a number of convicts from Bengal, and the other Presidencies, whose language and habits would effectually prevent their mingling with the British convicts,—whilst their power of enduring fatigue under a tropical sun and during rains, and their simple mode of living, would render them valuable pioneers for the more robust Englishmen. It was stated that a great deal of native labour might be obtained at a cheap rate; sixpence or ninepence per day and his rations, consisting of a pint of rice, a pound of dried beef, and a 'golpe d'arguadiante,' being the ordinary pay of a 'Peon.' The chief point, however, insisted on by the author, was the great field opened in the Isthmus for emigration, for the surplus population of this country. He contended for its superiority over the Canadas and over Australia. It was comparatively within an easy distance; the emigrant would be at his destination almost on landing; the resources of the country were great, and the productions varied and cheap, whilst the present population was infinitely disproportioned to the superficial area of the country. It was argued, that a grant of land might be easily obtained, in liquidation of the debt owing by the Government of the country; and as the British had once possessed an establishment there in 1675 to 1690, under the charter of the 'Scotch Darien Company,' so a footing being again obtained, a barrier of

the most formidable character would be opposed to the annexation propensities of our transatlantic brethren, who were making rapid strides towards the possession of this valuable tract.—Appended to the paper, was a copy of the commission granted to Lieut.-Col. Lloyd by General Bolivar, authorizing his examination and survey of the Isthmus and of the rivers,—which had previously been most jealously refused to every one. This document was alluded to with some natural pride as proving that to an English engineer was due the merit of having been the first to examine and propose a work of such vital importance to the whole world,—but which had been since claimed, and in fact appropriated, by other persons without acknowledgment.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Dec. 12.—T. Webster, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—After a short discussion on M. Laon's essay 'On the Cultivation and Manufacture of Sugar,' Mr. Highton read a paper 'On the Application of Electricity to the Arts and Sciences.' It was illustrated by specimens of simple and compound deposits as applied to works of Art; also by specimens of electrotyping as applied to the preservation of animals, insects and plants. An electrotype cast from a daguerreotype plate was also exhibited. Mr. Highton then alluded to the application of electricity to the art of war, to the freezing of water, to the formation of hail, and to the ventilation of coal-mines; and finished by showing that from the fact of electricity differing from all other known forces of Nature in its property of producing direct circular motion, it became a valuable analytical test for ascertaining whether certain other forces were simple and direct, acting in one straight line,—or the result of a combination of forces acting in various directions. He concluded by applying this analytical test to the motions of the heavenly bodies. The discussion was postponed.

On the table were models of Mr. Naylor's new Ventilating Vane.

SCIENTIFIC GOSSIP.—The Italian physiologists are actively engaged in the investigation of the phenomena—to which attention has been recently called by M. Emilie du Bois Raymond,—of electric currents produced by muscular movements. Their results all tend to prove that some peculiar force is developed by the contraction and extension of the muscles of the arm; but many of the effects observed by Prof. Bancalari and others appear exceedingly anomalous when compared with those of Du Bois Raymond. Out of the discussion on this subject, we find by the *Corrispondenza Scientifica di Roma* that the Italians are disposed to claim this discovery of Raymond's as one to be added to the list of the discoveries made in Electro-physiology by Galvani, Volta, Matteucci and others of their countrymen; and they state that similar results were obtained and described in 1839 by Professors Francesco Puccinotti and Luigi Pacinotti.

The American journals of Science inform us of a very ingenious invention by Dr. John Gorrie of Florida, by means of which water is rapidly frozen. From the account given of the arrangement it appears founded upon correct principles, involving the laws of pure mechanics and of the physical conditions of matter.—

"Essentially it consists of two simple agents—a force pump in which air is divested of latent heat by mechanical compression, and an engine in which the same air is made to operate expansively, and, in the process, absorb from water to be frozen, the heat due to its increase of volume. But there are several auxiliary agents for giving this simple contrivance its highest effective utility. Thus, by the obvious arrangement of attaching the pump and engine to the opposite ends of a common beam, the mechanical power consumed in condensing air in the pump is, to a considerable extent, recovered in its expansion in the engine. At the same time the heat evolved by the compression of the air is extinguished by a jet of water thrown into the body of the force pump by means of a smaller pump; while the heat necessary to impart to the expanding air the elasticity and mechanical force due to its quantity and volume is furnished through a similar pump, which takes from a cistern a portion of liquid, and, after injecting it among the expanding air in the engine, returns it to the same cistern. This cistern thus operates as a reservoir of cold, and as the sufficient means of abstracting heat from water, which is to be converted into ice, and which is immersed in it, in suitable vessels, for the purpose."

Although there is much novelty in the arrangement of this apparatus, the principles involved are not new. In Germany a high-pressure engine was made to throw out water in the form of snow. In all

condensed air engines the phenomena of freezing is constantly taking place; and we learn that Trevelthick made several engines with the express intention of employing them to convert water into ice, and that they answered the desired end.

Prof. Locke, of Cincinnati, has invented an instrument, which he calls *The Phantoscope*,—by means of which some very curious optical phenomena can be easily exhibited, and many of the laws of binocular vision illustrated. The instrument is very simple. It consists of a flat board, base about nine by eleven inches, with two upright rods, one at each end, a horizontal strip connecting the upper ends of the uprights, and a screen nearly as large as the base interposed between the top strip and the tabular base,—this screen being adjustable to any intermediate height. The top strip has a slit one fourth of an inch wide and about three inches long from left to right. The moveable screen has also a slit of the same length, and about an inch wide. If two identical pictures—say of a flower,—about an inch in diameter are placed one to the right and the other to the left of the centre of the tabular base, and about two or three inches apart, and a flower-pot or any other object is painted at the centre of the moveable screen, its top being even with the edge of the slit,—and an observer looks down through the upper slit, with both eyes steadily, to a mark in the flower-pot—a flower precisely similar to those painted on the base board, but of half the size, will appear as if growing from it. Numerous similar results may be obtained with this instrument; and many of the effects of the intercombination of colours are stated to be most curious and instructive.—Those who are acquainted with the *Stereoscope* of Prof. Wheatstone will perceive that the *Phantoscope* is but a simple and ingenious modification of that beautiful instrument. They both alike serve to illustrate the phenomena of single vision with a pair of eyes.

M. Edmond Becquerel has constructed an apparatus founded on the same principles as the *Polariscope* of M. Biot, which he calls an *Albuminimètre*. By an ingenious disposition of its parts the intensity of the luminous image which gives by its variations of brightness the index of rotation,—is more considerable. By this new polariscope the author has proved that the albumen in solution in the serum of the blood and in a great number of organic liquids gives a left-handed polarization to the light: the intensity of this deviation being in proportion to the quantity of albumen contained in these liquids. This is another of those practical applications of the phenomena of polarized light which are as valuable as they are curious.

It is satisfactory to have to record that by Imperial edict the Emperor of Austria has directed that a complete geological Survey of the Empire shall be made without delay; and an efficient staff has been appointed for prosecuting this useful work, under the direction of the Minister of Mines and Commerce. In addition to this, a museum is to be established in Vienna in which is to be collected all the natural productions of Austria, and every useful application which has hitherto been made,—or which may hereafter be made—of them. This museum is to be technological in the widest sense of the term; and liberal grants have been made by Government for efficiently securing the attainment of the design:—which is borrowed from our own Geological Survey and Museum of Practical Geology.

One of the greatest improvements which have yet been made in the practice of photography is, the substitution of plates of glass for sheets of paper. The simplicity of the process on glass is one advantage; but the perfection of the primary pictures thus obtained and the great beauty of the positive photographs copied from them are what render the discovery of the greatest value. The present movement in advance belongs to France:—we find that two applications for patents are made in England. It must, however, be remembered that in 1840 Sir John Herschel published in the *Philosophical Transactions* (vol. 131, pages 11-13) a description of some processes by which he obtained pictures with the camera on glass plates, and produced positive copies from them upon paper. They were of exceeding delicacy and beautiful definition,—judging from a specimen which we have seen representing the great telescope of Sir W. Herschel previous to its destruction.

M. Quetelet has recently published in the *Bulletin* of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Belgium the results of his observations on the electricity of the air during the first nine months of the year 1849,—in which he has tabulated the maximum and minimum electrical intensity for each month. From this paper we extract the mean electrical intensity of the air for the years from 1844 to 1848, both inclusive,—and the means of the same months in the present year. The differences will be seen to be very remarkable,—and, as connecting themselves with the public health, important.—

	Means of 1844-1848.	Means of 1849.
January	53°	39°
February	47	36
March	38	27
April	27	20
May	21	16
June	18	13
July	19	14
August	21	21
September	24	24

The *St. Petersburg Journal* announces that the Emperor of Russia has appointed a scientific commission to examine a project submitted to him by M. Archerot, a French chemist, for lighting the streets of the capital by electricity. The experiment is about to be tried at the entrance to the Admiralty, and in the candelabra which light the column of Alexander.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Mon.	Royal Academy, 8.—Mr. Green 'On Anatomy.'
—	Chemical, 8, &c.
—	Pathological, half-past 7.—Council.
—	British Architects, 8.
—	Statistical, 8.
Tues.	Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—Annual Report and Election of Council.
—	Linnæan, 8.
Wed.	Society of Arts, 8.
—	Geological, half-past 8.—Sir C. Lyell 'On Craters of Deception and the Structure of Volcanic Cones.'
Thurs.	Antiquaries, 8.
—	Royal, half-past 8.
—	Numismatic, 7.

FINE ARTS

Cottage Building; or, Hints for Improving the Dwellings of the Labouring Classes. By C. Bruce Allen, Architect. Weale's Rudimentary Series. 1849.

THE subject and the cheapness of this little treatise—which is illustrated by twenty-six well-executed woodcuts, each occupying an entire page—cannot fail to recommend it at a time when the policy, as well as duty, of doing something towards ameliorating the condition of the labouring classes and the poor with regard to their habitations is pressed on us almost daily. The duty is the more stringent because it is impossible for the poor themselves to do anything towards bettering their condition in respect to their dwellings—since the latter must be provided for them. It strikes us that parishes and unions might do much towards improving the condition of rural labourers and their families by taking the matter into their own hands and erecting comfortable dwellings, to be let at a rent that would merely repay cost—not perhaps indiscriminately to any one, but to those who by their general good character should seem most entitled to a preference. Were some such system introduced, there would perhaps, be less occasion for union-workhouses upon their present extensive scale,—and the morals of the rural population would be greatly improved.

The difficulty in the way of improving the dwellings of the labouring classes, whether in towns or in the country, lies in a small compass—it being a purely financial one. Remove that, and there is nothing to be done but what every one must perceive to be necessary, and what any ordinary builder can execute. Nothing more is requisite than to put together for each dwelling four or five comfortable rooms;—to provide, in fact, the same sort of accommodation as for domestic servants. *Design* is out of the question,—rather an impertinence than not. In all the books of designs for cottages that have been published, we have scarcely ever met with one that has been characteristic. Things of the kind have generally a most unpleasant, artificial look about them. Where picturesqueness is professedly aimed at, the result has been generally the reverse—or at the best a prim, studied, formal affectation of picturesqueness, perpetrated in ignorance of what constitutes it. No painter would introduce into his landscape a

cottage that looks as if it had just been taken out of a hand-box. Scarcely possible is it for a building of that nature to be beautiful as a building, or to please the eye as an artificial object. Never can it do so while it remains in a "bran-new" state. Its material what it may, a cottage requires to be ripened by the agency of nature itself into picturesque maturity. It must become tanned, stained and weather-beaten—moss and lichens must contribute towards mellowing and variegating its surface—rugginess must have entirely disappeared,—and of paint and whitewash there must be none. All that the constructor can do is, to provide a picturesque general outline and appropriate forms, and then leave his work to be finished up by weather and time and accident into a really picturesque object. Picturesqueness is, however, at any rate, out of place as we have said, in an improved system of dwellings for the labouring classes. While the painter demands for a cottage paucity of windows, and those small, low and irregularly placed—the advocates for "improvement" insist on windows without stint, and those large ones. These can hardly well be otherwise than formally arranged.

Although Mr. Allen's designs satisfy us better than most others of the kind which have been published, they yet leave much to be desired. What we decidedly object to in some of them is, the introduction of pointed arch windows; which are made mere naked apertures in themselves,—and which, besides being perfectly *unnotified*, as well as disagreeable in shape, are not at all characteristic of cottage style. It is true, Mr. Allen does not profess to aim at artistic quality,—for he does not touch at all on that point. He leaves his designs to speak for themselves, without so much as giving any general remarks on the subject of cottage architecture otherwise than as regards accommodation alone.

But Mr. Allen has, oddly, a chapter or essay which is a perfect *hors d'œuvre* in a work like this,—viz. 'On Architecture as a Fine Art.' Though out of place, however, in itself we like it much. It is very cleverly written. We would encourage its author to further develop the subject which he has there but slightly sketched out. We feel assured from this specimen that he could produce an instructive volume of popular architectural criticism. Among other sensible views of the subject, Mr. Allen insists on the necessity for a clear elucidation of *Principles* as the only sound basis of rational artistic criticism; and he also suggests an important desideratum, namely, a philosophical or æsthetic dictionary of artistic terms that would give a full critical explanation of all such as *Beauty, Simplicity, Sublimity*, &c., and all which "are used *adjectively*." But besides those which are expressive of *qualities*, and therefore occur in the adjective form, there are many which are nouns; for instance, *Composition, Contrivance, Decoration, Effect, Ensemble*, &c. &c.—all which are very important matters for study, yet when touched on at all have never been properly gone into. Notwithstanding the repute which it has obtained, even M. Quatremère de Quincy's dictionary is very deficient and unsatisfactory as regards all such terms; and in what he does say that writer is by no means *ex courrant du jour*. He is narrow and one-sided in his views,—and entirely ignores a great deal that now enters into architectural study.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—The biennial distribution of the premiums for original compositions in painting, sculpture and architecture offered by the Royal Academy to be competed for by its students took place on the customary day, the 10th of December,—the anniversary of the foundation of that Institution. The number of prizes given was greater than usual,—the powers of the competitions being more nearly balanced. The subject for the Gold Medal in Historical Composition in Painting was 'An Act of Mercy.' This prize was gained by Mr. Vinter, for a picture derived from Simon's 'History of France'—Blanche of Castile, Queen-Regent of France, liberating the Prisoners confined by the Chapter of Paris in the year 1512. The Queen proceeded with her guards, broke open the cells, and set them free." The other compositions for this Medal were 'Adam and Eve,' a scene from Genesis, chap. iii. v. 31,—and 'Christ casting out the Evil

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Spirits. The successful picture was a composition of considerable merit.—The subject of the Gold Medal for Historical Sculpture—a bas-relief—was 'The Rape of Proserpine.' This prize was awarded to Mr. Phisick.—A marked improvement was observable in the care and completeness with which the drawings are all more or less executed. The eight drawings made from the living model were all distinguished by attention to careful contour as well as by general anatomical intelligence. In the fifteen sets of drawings from the antique, there were several of great excellence—one (No. 41) pre-eminently so, well entitled to the first prize, which it obtained. All bore honourable testimony to the good discipline which the students here undergo. There were two well executed studies from a portion of a picture by Tintoretto; and two creditable oil studies from the firing model.—Mr. Pickering carrying away this prize. No large amount of invention will be claimed for architectural combinations. Their highest aspirations were interminable colonnades and never-ending pediments. Nor did the minute and pains-taking transcripts of the whole and the several parts of the South Portico of St. Paul's Cathedral inspire any very high anticipations for the future.—A short and feeling address of congratulation by the Keeper to the students terminated the proceedings.

A letter has been addressed by Lord Dufferin and Claneboye to the Secretary of the Government School of Design in Belfast, announcing that nobleman's intention to offer to the pupils of the school a prize of 50l. for the most approved design of a pattern for a damask table-cloth. His Lordship suggests that copies of the design, when approved, shall be distributed to the most celebrated damask manufacturers in the neighbourhood of Belfast, with the view of being manufactured in linen; and, in order to create a competition among the manufacturers, that the linens, when finished, shall be submitted to the inspection of competent judges. The piece which may be most approved of he proposes shall be sent to the contemplated Exhibition of Manufactures of all Nations to be held in London in 1851, as a specimen of the staple manufacture of the north of Ireland.

It is stated that a monument to Nelson is about to be erected in the market-place at Norwich, the capital of his native county—in the form of a statue of the hero.

It is proposed that the grand walk between the Palace of the Nation and the Palace of the King in Brussels shall be decorated with statues of all those personages who have rendered themselves celebrated by their meritorious labours in any department to elevate the condition of the country at any epoch of its history.

We hope there is no truth in the report which announces the intended destruction of the Marble Arch at Buckingham Palace,—instead of its removal to some other site. To sell it for what it would fetch as old materials would be a piece at once of paltry economy and of wanton extravagance. As an architectural production it certainly is not worth what it is said to have cost in the first instance; but as the cost has been incurred, it may surely be allowed to exist somewhere or other as an ornamental object. Nor can there be much difficulty in finding for it a situation where it would show to much greater advantage than it hitherto has. Various sites have already been suggested; and there are others which may be pointed out as appropriate enough for the purpose. Were it not for the two uncouthly tall houses that flank the approach to the "Albert Gate," the Arch might have been erected, in lieu of that gate, as an architectural entrance into Hyde Park. A suitable situation may be found in the inner circle of the Regent's Park; where the Arch might be made to form the entrance to the Horticultural Gardens. There it would neither interfere with nor be interfered with by any other buildings, to diminish its importance.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY. Exeter Hall.—Conductor, Mr. CORTA.—Next FRIDAY, Dec. 21, HANDEL'S MESSIAH. Vocalists: Miss Birch, Miss Dolby, Mr. Lockyer, and Mr. H. Phillips, with Orchestra of 700 Performers.—Tickets, 2s. 6s., and 4s. each, at 4, Exeter Hall, or of Mr. Bowley, 33, Charing Cross. Subscriptions in One, Two, or Three Guineas. Subscribers who have received no Tickets this Season will be furnished with Two for the present occasion.

MR. HENRY NICHOLLS'S Dramatic Reading of Shakspeare at Exeter Hall.—On Thursday Evening next, Dec. 20th, (the last of the present course) *The Merchant of Venice*.—Tickets, 1s. and 2s. Commence at 8.

* Communications respecting Private Readings, &c., to be addressed, 16, Howard-street, Strand.

Miss DOLBY begs to announce that her **THIRD** and last **SOIREE MUSICALE** will take place at her residence, 3, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, on TUESDAY, the 15th inst. To commence at Eight o'clock precisely. Principal vocal performers:—Miss Birch, Miss Thornton, Miss Dolby, Mr. Benson, Mr. Seguin, and Mr. H. Phillips. Instrumental:—Mr. Lindsay Sloper, Mr. Blagrove, Mr. Gattie, Mr. Dando, and Mr. Lucas.—Tickets 10s. 6s. each, to be obtained only of Miss Dolby, at her residence.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Overture, Songs, Duets, Madrigal, &c. in the Opera of 'King Charles the Second.' Composed by G. A. Macfarren.

THE cautious and economical fashions of English musical publication bear rather hard upon Mr. Macfarren, whose best and most individual composition is mostly to be found in his concerted pieces on the amplest scale. Here we are favoured with merely such portions of his opera as are likely to command a ready sale. With regard to these we have a word or two to add to our remarks already offered [*ante*, p. 1113]. In those, it may be recollected, we indicated where we thought the strength of 'Charles the Second' to lie, and what the want of its composer might prove. We now find that one cause of the deficiency of effect indicated in our foregoing notice lies in the eclecticism of Mr. Macfarren's reminiscences. The *Mozartish* touches (from 'Batti, batti') in 'Canst thou deem my heart is changing,' were noticed;—but on returning to the music we are aware of Rossinian echoes also. The passage

To sad hearts in sorrow mourning—in the free canon 'O repentance!' would scarcely have been written had the duet betwixt *Arnold* and *Mathilde*, in 'Guillaume Tell,' not existed. In the beginning of the *cantata* 'Hope and Fear,' which we greatly admired, the pace and almost the phrase of 'Di piacer' set the pattern and give the charm. Then, who can help feeling that the *buffo aria* for the *contralto*, 'There was never known such a contrivance,' (with its *arpeggiato cadenza* at the close) owes its origin to the interpolation in 'Les Huguenots' made by Meyerbeer for the exhibition of Mdle. Alboni? All these *indicia* occur in a work which contains a madrigal written to approach the Elizabethan model. Now, "effect"—which implies colour, character, consistency—is not to be secured on terms like these. When Handel "transcribed" the dance from 'Parthenia,' for his 'Pastoral Symphony,' he Handelized his theft. When Rossini stole Mozart's 'Life let us cherish' for his *Semiramide*, he so dressed and decked the theme, so wrought it into his own Rossinian web, that though the dullest thief-takers might recognize the melody the finest could not swear to a trace of the Master. The distinction is a nice one, we are aware; but not too nice to be attended to: and all inattention is sure to be followed by fixed consequences. These are told in the history and position of our contemporary English composers. As English composers they have neither "habitation nor name;" but the homelessness and the namelessness lie not so much in the want of court favour, in the deafness of managers, in the fashion-ridden tastes of our public,—as in the want of thought, want of care, or want of courage in the gentlemen themselves. When, as in the cases of Mr. W. S. Bennett or Mr. Balfe, a writer has systematically assumed a manner, if even the manner be not his own, that happens to him which befell the greater Gluck when he Frenchified himself,—a large acceptance by all those whom German, or French, or Italian music (as the case may be) address. When, on the contrary, an author who might, like Mr. Macfarren, establish and carry through a way of his own, vibrates among many manners,—his success may always be a "success of esteem," but will be never one of enthusiasm.

A New and Complete Edition of all Mozart's Favourite Songs, Duets and Trios, with the original Italian or German Words, and an entirely new English Version, by W. H. Bellamy. The whole arranged from the Scores of Mozart, revised and adapted to the English, by Samuel Sebastian Wesley. Nos. 1 to 24.—Little more is needed than to announce this publication,—save to remark that the work, if intended to be generally acceptable, ought to have been made cheaper. For the price of these four-and-twenty numbers the

purchaser could procure the pianoforte scores of some half-dozen complete operas—supposing that the fashion of issuing hand-editions should spread from the sacred concert-room to the theatre.

Mozart's 6th Quartet in a major, adapted for the Pianoforte Solo, by J. B. Cramer.—We accept this adaptation as a proof of the greatness of the idol rather than of his devotee's wisdom. Even Mr. J. Cramer's delicate and firm hand could not make a stringed Quartett into a good piece of pianoforte music. Supposing we can overlook the want of *sostenuto*, the conversation among the bowed instruments which is aided by the three varieties of tone employed in the colloquy, cannot be represented on the Pianoforte, let the player be as sensitive as poor Chopin, who used to maintain that every finger ought to produce a sound of its own, and that the real charm of first-rate playing was in combining these into a whole, not severally chastising them into a monotonous similarity. The only order of amateurs to whom such a transcript can be acceptable had better deal with the score for themselves. Meanwhile, it is as well executed as it could be.

With two pieces of music by female hands we must conclude our present notice. The first is *A Summer Serenade*, by Miss C. A. Macrone. This is a *nocturno* in the new style on an elegant and flowing theme; sufficient variety is given to the movement by an episode ingeniously wrought and reproduced.—The second is a *Scena and Duett* from 'Manfred,' by Miss Laura W. Barker. This appears to be an excerpt from an elaborate composition, being devoted to the apparition of *Astarte*, with a preliminary dialogue in recitative accompanied. It is full of feeling and passion; and what is even better—it is simply vocal. Whereas the words are such as to tempt the uninventive to all manner of mystical and grim instrumental combinations,—Miss Barker has used the right materials for expression, and never lost sight of beauty or declamatory propriety. The few bars given to *Nemesis* may be instanced,—and also the contrast maintained between the passionate Phantom and the passionate Mortal,—in proof of our praise. On the stage, with a competent *Manfred*, this scene could hardly fail to produce a fine effect;—and both in right of what is achieved, and of what has not been attempted, it justifies the high opinion of its writer's powers which we have more than once had occasion to express.

PRINCESS'S.—Though the inefficiency of the orchestra and chorus assembled by Mr. Maddox claims the utmost reprehension, and though the principal singers as a body are not all that could be desired, still as being the only English operatic establishment now open in London, the Princess's Theatre attracts a public,—and for the moment forms "a feature" in the metropolis deserving of attention.—The performance of Signor Schira's 'Mina' this day week is the first opportunity afforded to that gentleman—resident in London for some years past as a conductor—to exhibit his talent as a composer. We think that with further study and further opportunity to exercise his talent, Signor Schira might take a fair place among the modern Italian writers. This opera contains some effective music: in particular a *Tyrolienne* in the introduction (the scene being laid in Dalcarnia)—a pleasant *buffo* duet betwixt the second *soprano* (Mrs. Weiss) and the principal *basso* (Mr. Weiss),—and a grand concerted piece in the first *finale* somewhat after the manner of Verdi and thus somewhat too noisily scored,—but still grandiose and effective. Generally, we remarked in 'Mina' a want of style:—in portions of it, French piquancy—in other passages, German richness of harmonic modulation have been obviously aimed at. Further, Signor Schira's melodies are for the most part poor: he does not always write correctly,—and he knows not how to manage his orchestra. To mention but one fault, there is an immoderate use of the *cornet-à-piston* throughout his score; and this is a family of instrument which in England neither love nor money can persuade into playing *piano*. We shall never forget the effect of the soft cornet accompaniment at the *Opéra Comique* at Paris to *Andréa's* couplets 'Ainsi que vous' in 'Haydée.' Some idea of this kind is obviously for ever tempting Signor Schira; but the same thing happens with his trumpet as happens in some of Hérold's scores with the octave flute,—which the ear, at last, absolutely comes to

dread, owing to its being used immoderately. On the whole, though from the signs and tokens of welcome on the part of the public, we are justified in calling 'Mina' a success, it is so chiefly as substantiating Signor Schira's right to try for a better chance; and we think it entitles him fairly to a commission—though perhaps not as yet for one of our two costly Italian theatres.

The noticeable point of execution in 'Mina' was Miss Pyne's singing of the heroine's part:—which was admirable. In all that we have heard this Lady attempt on the stage, we have found a propriety without the slightest prudish formality,—a finish, without any offensive display of mechanism,—a purity without baldness,—and a brilliancy of execution without meretriciousness, which give her a very high place in our esteem. We know of no foreign contemporary singer of her own quality of whom Miss Pyne need be afraid—the more since she improves from opera to opera.—Thus much of matter for praise. That we may not appear to revel in matter for blame, we will leave totally untouched that which under any common circumstances should have come first,—namely, an account of the story which had to be played and a judgment of the words which are set and sung. But we must express our "civil wonder" at Mr. Harrison's costume. Anything so amazing, even on the hypothesis of a Frenchman's idea (Mr. Harrison personates a Frenchman) of what is at once "seasonable" and fatal to the ladies in Dalecarlia, never came out of a masquerade warehouse at the eleventh hour and a-half!—that is, when every fit and fair dress of every conceivable character and country had been carried off by earlier *Romeos* and *Atinivas*.

WEDNESDAY CONCERTS.—It is hardly in the course of possibility for a more perfect specimen of violin playing to be presented than that by Herr Ernst at the last Wednesday Concert. His performance of 'La Romanese,' (first introduced here by M. A. Batta) was of itself worth the price of a ticket: while the familiar 'Air Varié' of Mayseder was given by him with a grandeur, brilliancy, and spontaneous fancy which raised it to the beauty and interest of a new work. Whereas other violinists execute their music, Herr Ernst plays with his: in this respect approaching the Mozarts and Paganinis, whose idea of *solo* exhibition more or less included improvisation.—We have besides to speak of a very droll apparition which was seen at the last Wednesday Concert—to wit, a new tenor fitted out in imitation of Mr. Sims Reeves as closely as if stage personation had been intended. Not only Mr. Reeves's peculiar manner of articulation, but his mode of hurrying into the orchestra,—greeting his audience,—nay, even his individualities of toilet,—were too unmistakably aped by the new comer to admit of question. The imitation was found very savoury by the public; who cheered Mr. Bridge Frodsham to a degree totally disproportioned to his musical value or his vocal attainments. But is such uproarious applause sympathy for Art? Surely not. Let us hope the fashion will not spread.

DRURY LANE.—Promenade Concerts.—We were much interested in hearing, on Monday, the first three movements of M. Berlioz's 'Harold' Symphony [*Athen.* No. 1059] very carefully played under M. Jullien's presidency—the *solo viola* part being intrusted to Mr. Blagrove. Music so resolutely unlike any other that has been presented to the public must be heard more than once to be thoroughly appreciated "for better for worse." Yet on returning to this Symphony, we were surprised by the small amount of new revelations yielded by a second hearing. The introductory *tango* grew upon us, as a piece of rich and resonant combination; but we are no nearer than we were before to "embracing" the patchiness of the *allegro*, and its want of episode—or the studied eccentricity which spoils, rather than sets off, the marked and marching melody of the Pilgrim procession. We felt more than ever on Monday how beautiful is the sound drawn by M. Berlioz from the orchestra, and hence we wish more earnestly than ever that his constructive power could be made proportionable to his command over colour. Meanwhile, we are much indebted to M. Jullien for the opportunity of reconsidering a work in every respect so worthy of deliberate consideration.

In this matter (and it is one which every musician would be glad, at least, to talk about) he is in advance of the Philharmonic Society—His season closed last night with the usual masquerade.

SADLER'S WELLS.—Mr. Tomlins's tragedy of 'Garcia, or the Noble Error,' was produced on Wednesday, to a crowded house, with complete success. This drama consists in the clever development of a novel and striking incident; the murder of a witness on the road to the place of his examination—the motive of the crime being the saving of a mother's life. The scene is laid in Spain, at the period of the first establishment in that country of the Inquisition. The object of the vengeance of "the Office" is a noble lady, who has given refuge to a Morisco charged with heresy and pursued by the tribunal—thus aiding his escape. *Rodriguez Xerife* (Mr. Graham) is the name of the fugitive; who, while a storm is raging without, applies for admission to the castle of the *Countess de Yvera* (Miss Glyn),—and is by her, as we have said, hospitably sheltered. This little part was played with an earnestness of supplication which early lent a strong human interest to the subject,—and had its share in securing the success of the play. The designs of the Inquisition are taken advantage of by a *Marquis de Pacheco* (Mr. H. Marston); who, for the purpose of enforcing his claim to the hand of the Countess's daughter, *Canilla* (Miss T. Bassano) plots to get the family into his power,—particularly the Countess's son *Garcia* (Mr. Phelps), the hero of the piece. A scene in the second act is occupied with a ceremonial descriptive of the heir's taking possession of his fief; at the conclusion of which the familiars enter and summon the Countess before the Holy Tribunal. Before it, her bearing is bold; and her avowed sentiments are sufficiently liberal to expose her to the malicious interpretation of her bigotted judges. But the Queen is in her favour; and the secular power refuses to carry out the decrees of ecclesiastical authority without a fresh inquiry. The final sentence is made to depend on the re-examination of the Moor before the council. Finally the Queen succeeds altogether in her work of intercession,—and the Countess is unconditionally set free. Meanwhile Pacheco has suggested to Garcia that the role witness against his mother's life will have to pass alone near the castle of Yvera, on his way to examination at the court,—and presented to his filial love the duty of murder. He persists in thus tempting the conscience of his victim, though made aware through an old and babbling uncle, *Fray Diego*, Bishop of Tarasco (Mr. Wilkins), that the Countess has been saved by other means. The interest of this part of the play depends on the agony of mind in which Garcia writhes under the temptation. The conflict between his filial passion and his moral sense begets a sort of frenzied condition of feeling—under which the crime is committed. To the very instant of the deed remorse succeeds. This remorse becomes almost madness when, returning home, he finds his mother,—and knows that he has committed a needless crime. Finally, the officers of the tribunal claim the murderer; and the mother, whom the crime had sought to save, dies of the anguish of its coming punishment.

Mr. Phelps acted the part of the young hero with great force,—making the passion of the situation terribly intelligible to the audience. Miss Glyn made a powerful and striking portrait of her part by force of great artistic skill. In the concluding scene she insinuated that fine sense of the supernatural which she loves to introduce into situations that admit of its display. The picture of a noble lady, in all senses of the word, fearfully tried and yielding only to Death, was produced with a sustained power that never fell below the demands of the character and rose to the sublime with the occasion. The play, it will be seen, depends on situation: and its incidents are arranged with great art, both for effect and for the clearness with which they explain themselves. Its merits rest little on the language,—and nothing on the versification, which is singularly defective. Its decided success may serve to show the importance of structure and story to the production of an acceptable drama. To the management the author is indebted for a highly picturesque and careful manner of getting up the piece. At the close, Mr. Tomlins appeared before the curtain, to the

call of the audience,—as did Mr. Phelps and Miss Glyn.

HAYMARKET.—Mr. and Mrs. Kean made their first appearance this season on Monday, in Mr. Lovell's play of 'The Wife's Secret.'—On Wednesday, the tragedy of 'Hamlet' was performed; Mr. Kean being the Danish prince, Mrs. Kean undertaking the part of *Ophelia*, and Mrs. Warner supporting *Gertrude*.

NEW STRAND.—The Danish play of 'King Ren's Daughter,' by Henrik Herz, was produced on Tuesday, from the translation of Bon Gaultier. This drama is designed for a psychological exposition of blindness in the person of the heroine; who, by her father's direction, is solicitously kept in ignorance of the fact of her want of sight being a specific and individual deficiency. But Love, in the person of a young nobleman, reveals the secret, and makes the Princess aware of a world of objects of which she has no perception. Restored at length to sight by a Moorish physician, she recognizes her father, her lover and the countenance of Nature, with all the delights of wonder consequent on new sensations. The part was confided to Mrs. Sterling,—who in all her movements and attitudes expressed blindness to the life. The pathos of her acting was enhanced by the simplicity of her style. It grew elevated, however, when in the moment of restoration she looked up to the "o'erhanging firmament."—Mr. Leigh Murray and Mr. Diddar played the lover and the King well.

MARYLEBONE.—One of the theatrical events of the week has been the closing of this theatre on Monday. It is now two years since Mr. Watts redeemed it from obscurity, and gave it a standing worthy of mention in dramatic criticism. Mrs. Warner, fresh from Sadler's Wells, brought with her the spirit and theory of that establishment,—and attempted revivals of old dramas in a style even more costly: but a taste had to be created in the neighbourhood for theatrical entertainment,—and the lessee has, we fancy, been left to pay himself out of the glory of the experiment. It is probable that, considering the class of inhabitants in the Regent's Park and its environs, the directress would have succeeded better with novelties than with revivals. After the retirement of Mrs. Warner, indeed, Mr. Watts did find his advantage in going out of the prescribed track, and introducing greater variety in the character of his entertainments. Ultimately, the management settled down, with a good working company led by Mrs. Mowatt and Mr. Davenport, to the performance of a fair proportion of modern dramas in combination with the elder—occasionally producing or importing an original piece. Under a steady course of this kind the business of the house was improving:—but the rebuilding of the Olympic Theatre suggested an enterprise more ambitious to the manager and his company. On Monday, therefore, it was determined to close the old theatre, and commence arrangements for the new.

The piece chosen was Mr. Knowles's play of 'The Wife,' in which Mrs. Mowatt was an expressive and pleasing representative of the heroine. Mr. Davenport's *St. Pierre* was vigorous and effective. The house was crowded. After the play Mr. Ellis, the stage manager, delivered a valedictory address.

OLYMPIC.—On Tuesday, this theatre was open to a private view; being lighted up for the occasion, with a view to afford an opportunity for judging of its appearance when it shall be completed. The effect was altogether satisfactory:—but as we have already described the building it is not necessary to go into detail. The company has been reinforced by the addition of Mr. G. V. Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Wigan, Mr. Compton, Mr. Reeves, Mr. Meadows, and Mrs. Seymour,—with several other performers of both sexes of considerable talent.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—The musicians of London intend to organize a concert for the benefit of Mr. Platt, the horn-player,—who is about to retire from the orchestra, after many years' service. While we have never admitted Mr. Platt's claims to the important place which he has so long occupied, such opinion on a question of art can have nothing whatever to do with a case of kindly

comradeship like the one announced; and we therefore wish the concert every possible success.

Signor Ronconi appears as anxious to contribute to the London newspapers as he is resolute to be useless in a London opera-house. He has been again circulating his periodical complaint against the Covent Garden management, and Mr. Delafield has again assured the world that the Signor's particular losses and crosses were caused by his own ungracious and disobliging selfishness. Never, assuredly, was man of such magnificent genius "spoiled" by vanity so perverse and suicidal as Signor Ronconi's.—Mr. Sims Reeves, we hear, will re-appear next season at Covent Garden.

Change of name leads to awkward confusions. We should never have fancied Madame Fiorentini anything but what she is—a *débütante* of great promise—had she been announced under her own style and title of Mrs. Jennings,—since we are aware that much has been expected of that Lady in certain London circles for some time past. We were, after all, right in saying that the new *prima donna* "must have been somebody else!"—Perhaps some contributor of "Notes and Queries" can now tell us who is Madame Albertini, an English lady singing, or about to sing, at Rome.—The correspondent of the *Times* mentions that another *prima donna* there during the winter will be Madame Clara Novello,—who, like Madame Sontag, will not submit to any change of name. This lady's return to the profession will be a great boon to the Italian theatres.

After a long rest from performance in London, Miss Rainforth has joined the corps of the Lyceum Theatre, and is singing in the one musical stock-piece of that establishment—"The Beggars' Opera." Really—in spite of our grave respect for Gay—we cannot but think that the world has had enough of *Macbeth* betwixt *Polly* and *Lucy*; and should not be sorry if the *trio* was honourably superannuated and sent off to the Elysian Theatre, there to keep company with *George Barnwell*!—Miss Kathleen Fitzwilliam, whom Miss Rainforth replaces, has "taken office" at the Adelphi. This young lady might have done good service to Opera, in place of confining herself to sentimental drama or *vaudeville*, had the fashions of the time been different.

Among the minor music of the week, we must mention a *Soirée* given by Mr. Frank Bodda, with a very good selection of music. He was assisted by Miss Messent, Miss Pyne,—that rapidly rising tenor Mr. Benson, Mr. Jewson, Mr. Richardson, and other artists.

Recent letters from Paris announce the organization of a new society for the performance of the highest order of concert music,—in competition with, if we must not say in opposition to, the *Conservatoire*. The orchestra is to be directed by M. Berlioz.

Yesterday, a grand performance was given at the *Académie* of Paris for the benefit of M. Duprez. We suppose that this may be esteemed his farewell to the stage,—which his departure deprives of the finest dramatic tenor singing that we have ever heard.

Russia seems in no respect more comically "protective" than in its dealings with musicians. Those who are let in are rewarded with colonelcies, diamond snuff-boxes, orders, &c.; but till the other day, we were not aware that any embargo was laid on the entrance of travelling *virtuosos*. Yet, we read in the *Gazette Musicale* that a certain valorous *contralto* (freely to translate a favourite Italian epithet), Mlle. Ida Bertrand "having not obtained permission to enter the domains of the Czar, where none are admitted but artists already engaged for the theatre," has been compelled to relinquish all hope of diamonds, regiments, street serenades, and of being drawn home to her hotel by Mougiks—and to stop at Berlin. If this be no French inaccuracy—supposing, further, that the Lady is no propagandist, and that the usage is general, what a country would be here for the Cowsells to be born in!

Owing to the demise of the Queen Dowager, the intended Windsor theatricals are indefinitely postponed.

MISCELLANEA

Iron Manufactures of Sussex.—"I have made two extracts from a once popular, but now forgotten, work,

illustrative of the iron manufacture which, within the last hundred years, had its main seat in this county,—which I think may be interesting to many of your readers who may have seen the review of Mr. Lower's 'Essay on the Ironworks of Sussex' in the recent numbers of the *Athenæum* and *Gentleman's Magazine*. The anecdote at the close is curious, as confirming the statements of Macaulay; the roads in Sussex in the 18th century being much in the condition of the roads in England generally in the 17th. 'Sowsexe,' according to the old proverb, has always been 'full of dirt and mire.'—

"From hence (Eastbourne) it was that, turning north, and traversing the deep, dirty, but rich part of these two counties (Kent and Sussex), I had the curiosity to see the great foundries, or ironworks, which are in this county (Sussex), and where they are carried on at such a prodigious expense of wood, that, even in a county almost all overrun with timber, they begin to complain of their consuming it for those furnaces and leaving the next age to want timber for building their navies. I must own, however, that I found that complaint perfectly groundless, the three counties of Kent, Sussex, and Hampshire all which lie contiguous to one another, being one inexhaustible storehouse of timber, never to be destroyed but by a general conflagration, and able, at this time, to supply timber to rebuild all the royal navies in Europe, if they were all to be destroyed, and set about the building them together.—I left *Tunbridge* . . . and came to *Leves*, through the deepest, dirtiest, but many ways the richest and most profitable country in all that part of England.—The timber I saw here was prodigious, as well in quantity as in bigness, and seem'd in some places to be suffered to grow only because it was so far off of any navigation, that it was not worth cutting down and carrying away; in dry summers, indeed, a great deal is carried away to Maidstone and other parts on the Medway; and sometimes I have seen one tree on a cart, which they call here a *tug*, drawn by two-and-twenty oxen, and even then this carried so little away, and then thrown down and left for other *tugs* to take up and carry on, that sometimes it is two or three years before it gets to Chatham; for if once the rains come in it sits no more that year, and sometimes a whole summer is not dry enough to make the roads passable. Here I had a slight which, indeed, I never saw in any other part of England, namely, that going to church at a country village, not far from *Leves*, I saw an ancient lady, and a lady of very good quality, I assure you, drawn to church in her coach with six oxen; nor was it done in a frolic or humour, but mere necessity, the way being so stiff and deep that no horses could go in it."—*Notes and Queries*.

Extraordinary Ingenuity.—We have now in Nottingham a native of Posen, in Prussian Poland, who carries with him, for sale or exhibition, the most extraordinary drawings we ever examined. They consist of portraits of the Queen, the Duke of Wellington, Shakespeare, and others. As a guide, we take that of Her Majesty.—The drawing commences in one line, which runs through the whole of the piece to its final close, taking the features, dress, and an innumerable display of ornamental accessories to finish the picture, and all in neat writing, containing a very interesting narrative of the first eight years of Victoria's reign. The others are on the same principle.—*Notts Guardian*.

Antiquarian Excavations in Moulsham.—These excavations have been carried on to an extent which now leaves no doubt that here have long lain buried the ruins of a Roman villa; as some of the walls and corners of the buildings have been cleared—and, accurate plans and drawings of these parts having been made by Mr. Chancellor, they will be filled up again, and further researches will probably be continued by fresh excavations in other quarters. In searching amongst the remains last week, a small brass coin of Alectus was found. Amongst the fragments of ornamented tiles discovered, is one on which is represented, in relief, a stag hunt, the figures being well preserved. A beautiful drawing of this singular relic of the past has been made by Mr. Perry, an architect, and a temporary resident in the town, who has devoted much of his time to the excavations.—*Chelmsford Chronicle*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A Constant Reader—E. B.—T. J.—X. Y. Z.—W. S.—A. Z.—A Pelican in the Wilderness—E. O.—G.—E. T.—W. H. de M.—received.

ONE OF YOUR CONSTANT SUBSCRIBERS.—We are obliged by our correspondent's good opinion,—and have an implicit faith in the badness of the book specified. But it is now an old offence, and to deal with new ones is as much as we can manage.

J. A.—If our correspondent who writes in reference to our article on railways in last week's number, will refer to that article for a more careful reading, he will see that there is nothing in it which his statement of facts in any degree contradicts. His communication is wholly beside the expressed purpose of our argument.

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